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House GOP asked more about Clinton emails, Comey says

Former FBI Director James Comey, with his attorney, David Kelley, left, arrive to testify under subpoena behind closed doors before the House Judiciary and Oversight Committee on Capitol Hill in Washington, Friday, Dec. 7, 2018.

Associated Press

By MARY CLARE JALONICK
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — House Republicans interviewed James Comey

behind closed doors Friday, hauling the former FBI director to Capitol Hill one final time before they cede power to Democrats

in January. GOP lawmakers who stepped outside while the questioning was underway indicated they weren't satisfied and will bring him

back later this month. Comey wasn't pleased either, telling reporters, "We're talking about Hillary Clinton's emails, for heav-

en's sake, so I'm not sure we needed to do this at all."

Continued on Page 3

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Heather Nauert likely to be quizzed on her diplomatic resume

By DEB RIECHMANN

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's pick to be America's top ambassador at the United Nations is likely to face questions about her thin diplomatic resume during an upcoming Senate confirmation hearing that will shine fresh attention on the president's "America first" approach to foreign policy.

If confirmed by the Senate, Heather Nauert, a 48-year-old former Fox News Channel reporter, will replace Nikki Haley. Nauert had little foreign policy experience before taking the podium as spokeswoman for the State Department.

Nauert's confirmation could hinge on her performance at the hearing. Still, she stands a good chance of approval because after the new Congress begins in January, Republicans will have a 53-47 vote majority over Democrats in the Senate.

In announcing his decision on Friday, Trump said Nauert was "very talented, very



In this Aug. 9, 2017, file photo, State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert speaks during a briefing at the State Department in Washington.

Associated Press

smart, very quick." He said he thought she would be "respected by all."

Others, including former U.S. ambassador to Russia, Michael McFaul, criticized the choice. Nauert's job as spokeswoman at State is "to read talking points and explain policy," McFaul

tweeted. The job of U.N. ambassador is very different, he said, and usually requires foreign policy or diplomatic expertise or both. Trump backer Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., issued a statement praising Nauert, but his Republican colleagues who sit on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee were silent.

"I've known Heather for many years. She is a fine and capable person," Graham said, adding that she had the confidence of Trump and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo.

"I'm sure she will perform well at her hearing and look forward to supporting her nomination."

If she gets the job, Nauert would take the post with less clout than Haley, a former South Carolina governor who announced in October that she would step down at the end of this year.

Trump is downgrading the ambassador's position to a sub-Cabinet-level post. That means Nauert could be overshadowed by Pompeo or Trump's national security adviser, John Bolton, who had the U.N. job in 2005 and 2006. She also would be going up against foreign counterparts like the U.N. representatives from Russia and China, who each have decades of ex-

perience in diplomacy. Nauert thanked Trump and said she was humbled at being chosen. "If confirmed, I look forward to continuing the outstanding job Ambassador Haley has done representing your administration and the American people."

Trump's announcement comes just a day after the U.S. lost a high-profile vote in the U.N. General Assembly for a resolution condemning the Palestinian militant group Hamas. Haley had lobbied hard to get the resolution passed, but couldn't garner the two-thirds majority needed.

Haley herself arrived at the United Nations with little foreign policy experience beyond promoting international investments in South Carolina. However, she quickly learned key issues and how the U.N. operates.

Because of her work at the State Department, Nauert would have the advantage of already knowing the Trump administration's position on all major global issues. But without being a member of the Cabinet, she wouldn't have the same independence that Haley has enjoyed.

Pompeo tweeted that Nauert has traveled with him since he took the helm of the State Department. "I have great confidence

in her. Heather plays a key role in advancing U.S. foreign policy & I look forward to her speedy confirmation."

She also would arrive at a time when Trump and members of his foreign policy team have all displayed sometimes open contempt for the United Nations and its affiliated agencies.

In its first two years, the Trump administration has pulled out of the U.N. scientific, educational and cultural organization UNESCO, the U.N. Human Rights Council and threatened to leave the International Postal Union. It has cut off contributions for the U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees and U.N. population fund. It has also sought to reduce funding for U.N. peacekeeping operations.

Pompeo, Nauert's current boss, recently delivered a speech attacking multinational institutions and agreements that many believe have served as pillars of stability in the post-World War II era.

In that speech in Brussels, Pompeo questioned the value and credibility of organizations like the U.N., the European Union, the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, saying they are in need of dire change if they are to continue to have U.S. support or membership.

"Haley lost a degree of autonomy when John Bolton became the national security adviser, because he had strong views about the U.N.," said Stephen Pomper of the Crisis Group, an organization that works to prevent wars.

"Bringing Nauert aboard in a sub-Cabinet role will diminish the position yet further," said Pomper, who worked at the National Security Council under former President Barack Obama.

"For better or worse, the administration's U.N. policy is pretty established at this point, and there's no reason to expect that Nauert will deviate from the 'America First' course that Haley, Bolton, and Pompeo have set." □



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COMEY**Continued from Front**

A transcript of the interview "will bore you," Comey said after the six-hour interview with two House committees.

President Donald Trump tweeted Friday that Comey was apparently told by Justice Department attorneys not to answer some questions. Trump called that "total bias and corruption at the highest levels of (the) previous Administration," adding that lawmakers should force Comey to answer questions under oath.

Republicans say Comey and other Justice Department officials were biased against Trump as they investigated his campaign's ties with Russia in 2016 and cleared Clinton in a separate probe into her email use.

Comey said he will be back at the Capitol for another closed-door interview the week of Dec. 17.

Democrats also were unhappy, saying Judiciary Committee Republicans' questions were merely distractions from special counsel Robert Mueller's Russia probe.

Comey appeared for the interview after unsuccessfully fighting a subpoena in court. It was the first time he answered lawmakers' questions since an explosive June 2017 hearing in which he asserted that Trump fired him to interfere with his FBI investigation of alleged Russia ties to the Trump campaign.

Two GOP-led committees are wrapping up a year-long investigation into decisions made at the Justice Department during the

2016 presidential election. Republicans argue that department officials were biased against Trump as they started the investigation and cleared Clinton in a separate probe into her email use. Comey was in charge of both investigations.

Democrats have said the investigations by the House Judiciary and Oversight and Government Reform committees are merely a way to distract from and undermine the special counsel's Russia probe. Mueller took over the department's investigation when he was appointed in May 2017.

Under a deal struck with the Judiciary Committee, Comey was to be free to speak about Friday's questioning afterward and a transcript was to be released. Comey had argued that Republicans would selectively leak details and mischaracterize the proceedings. Walking into the meeting, Comey said he might answer questions in public after the session. He gave a wry answer when asked if he was "best friends" with Mueller, as Trump has tweeted.

"Note that I smiled," Comey said. After the questioning was underway, some Republicans signaled they were unhappy with Comey's level of cooperation. California Rep. Darrell Issa said Comey had two lawyers in the room, his personal lawyer and a lawyer from the Justice Department. He said the department lawyer repeatedly instructed Comey not to answer "a great many questions that are clearly items at the core of our investigation." Issa suggested the com-

mittee might bring Comey back because he wasn't answering questions. Two other Republicans, Reps. Andy Biggs of Arizona and Mark Meadows of North Carolina, also suggested they might need a second session with Comey if they didn't finish their interview by a late afternoon deadline.

Democrats disagreed that Comey wasn't being cooperative.

"He answered the questions he had to answer," said Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi of Illinois. But he added that he was left with the impression that "we got nowhere today."

Florida Rep. Ted Deutsch said the Republican majority "wishes to only ask questions still about Hillary Clinton's emails, all to distract from the big news today, which is what's happening in court."

Mueller was to reveal more details about his Russia investigation in court on Friday as he faced deadlines in the cases of Trump's former campaign chairman, Paul Manafort, and former personal lawyer Michael Cohen.

Over the past year, Republicans on the two committees have called in a series of officials and suggested after the closed-door meetings that there is evidence of bias. The investigation's most public day was a 10-hour hearing in which former FBI special agent Peter Strzok defended anti-Trump texts he sent to a colleague as he helped lead both investigations. Strzok defiantly fought with angry Republican lawmakers in a riveting hearing that featured Strzok reading aloud



Former FBI Director James Comey speaks to reporters after testifying under subpoena behind closed doors before the House Judiciary and Oversight Committee on Capitol Hill in Washington, Friday, Dec. 7, 2018.

Associated Press

from his sometimes-lewd texts, and Democrats and Republicans openly yelling at each other.

New York Rep. Jerrold Nadler, the top Democrat on the Judiciary panel, said as he walked into the Comey interview that he will end the investigation when Democrats take the House majority in January.

"This is a waste of time to start with," Nadler said. "The entire purpose of this investigation is to cast aspersions on the real investigation ... there is no evidence whatsoever of bias at the FBI or any of this other nonsense." Comey, who has testified publicly on Capitol Hill about both the Clinton and Russia investigations, balked at the subpoena because he said committees were prone to selectively reveal information for political purposes.

"Don't do it in a dark corner and don't do it in a way where all you do is leak information," said Comey's attorney, David Kelley.

House Judiciary Com-

mittee Chairman Robert Goodlatte, R-Va., decried Comey's use of "baseless litigation" and called it an "attempt to run out the clock on this Congress," a reference to the few weeks left before Democrats take control. Both Goodlatte and South Carolina Rep. Trey Gowdy, the chairman of the oversight panel, are also retiring at the end of the year.

After the court fight was resolved, Goodlatte said a transcript will be released "as soon as possible after the interview, in the name of our combined desire for transparency."

A report released this June from the Justice Department's internal watchdog said Comey was "insubordinate" in his handling of the Clinton email investigation in the final months of the 2016 campaign. But it also found there was no evidence that Comey's or the department's final conclusions were motivated by political bias toward either candidate. □

Trump prods McConnell on sentencing bill: 'Go for it Mitch!'

By LISA MASCARO and KEVIN FREKING

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell's reluctance to hold a vote on a popular criminal justice bill has angered top Republican senators and created an unusual rift with a long-time GOP ally, Sen. Chuck Grassley of Iowa. And on Friday, it also brought on a tweet from President Donald Trump.

"Hopefully Mitch McConnell will ask for a VOTE on Criminal Justice Reform," Trump tweeted. "It is extremely popular and has strong bipartisan support. It will also help a lot of people, save taxpayer dollars, and keep our communities safe. Go for it Mitch!"

Minutes later Grassley tweeted that he and the president had spoken about "the growing support" for the legislation. "Pres Trump told me he wants it done THIS CONGRESS," Grassley tweeted. Grassley has spent years working to build a coalition around the bill and is pushing for a year-end vote. Grassley says more than two-thirds of the Senate supports it. But McConnell is refusing to bring the legislation forward in a standoff that's dividing the Republican majority and putting President Donald Trump on the spot.

"We've done what needs to be done," Grassley said about the overwhelming support for the bill. "So



In this Oct. 6, 2018 file photo, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., finishes speaking to reporters at the Capitol in Washington.

Associated Press

what's holding it up?"

For the 85-year-old chairman of the Judiciary Committee, this is not the way the Senate is supposed to operate. Grassley was expecting some deference from McConnell after delivering on Trump's judicial nominees — including two now on the Supreme Court. Despite Trump's support for the measure, McConnell says it's divisive. His reluctance to take up Grassley's priority shows the limits of the Senate's old-fashioned customs in an era of heightened partisan politics.

"What's so irritating about this is, first of all, he and I have been hand-in-glove working to get the judiciary vacancies filled," Grassley

told Iowa reporters.

"I think I ought to have some consideration for delivering on tough Supreme Court nominees, and a lot of tough circuit court nominees and maybe even once in a while you get a tough district court nominee," Grassley went on. Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., intervened Friday, talking directly to Trump about attaching the criminal justice legislation to the must-pass year-end spending bill, which is already tangled in a separate fight over funds for the border wall with Mexico.

"Just talked with President," Graham tweeted. "He strongly believes criminal justice reform bill must pass

now. He also indicated he supports putting criminal justice reform bill on year-end spending bill which must include MORE wall funding."

Trump has called senators about the bill and spoke briefly about it Friday at an event on safe neighborhoods in Kansas City.

The bill is a project of Trump's son-in-law, White House adviser Jared Kushner, and would be the biggest sentencing overhaul in decades. It would reduce mandatory prison terms for certain drug crimes and give judges in some cases more discretion on punishments. It would allow about 2,600 federal prisoners sentenced for crack co-

caine offenses before August 2010 the opportunity to petition for a reduced penalty. It also includes provisions to encourage education and workforce training in prisons.

Roughly 90 percent of prison inmates are held in state facilities and would not be affected by the legislation. While Kushner has been meeting with senators on Capitol Hill, Trump is also hearing from allies who are against the legislation. Chief among them is Sen. Tom Cotton, R-Ark., who is warning senators that Republicans will be blamed if criminals are released and commit new crimes.

"Only thing worse than early release from prison of thousands of serious, violent, & repeat felons is to do that in a spending bill with no debate or amendments, forcing senators to either shut down government or let felons out of prison," Cotton tweeted Friday. The spending bill will need approval by Dec. 21 to avoid a funding lapse days before Christmas.

Cotton and others, including Sen. John Cornyn of Texas, No. 2 Senate Republican, insist there is not as much support for the bill as Grassley claims. Cotton says senators may tell the chairman they're in favor of it when actually they're not. The bill has support from several conservative and liberal advocacy groups, uniting such disparate partners as the influential Koch network and the American Civil Liberties Union, but it splits law enforcement groups. It is backed by the Fraternal Order of Police and the International Association of Chiefs of Police but opposed by the National Sheriff's Association. Amid this divide, McConnell has been choosing caution, saying there's just not enough time to push the bill forward in the remaining days of the Congress. "The question is, can you shoe-horn something that's extremely controversial into the remaining time?" he said Monday in an interview at a Wall Street Journal forum. □

Secret Service detail for Bush, code name 'Timberwolf,' ends



A joint military honor guard carries the casket of former President George H.W. Bush after it arrived by a presidential funeral train at Texas A&M University in College Station for burial at the George Bush Presidential Library on Thursday, Dec. 6, 2018.

COLLEGE STATION, Texas

(AP) — The U.S. Secret Service has ended its detail for George H.W. Bush after nearly 40 years of protecting the former president, who was known by the code name "Timberwolf." The agency says its security detail officially ended at 6 a.m. Friday "with no incidents to report" following Bush's burial Thursday at his presidential library at Texas A&M University. In its final notification, the Bush Protective Division said: "You

will be missed by all of us."

Agents served as honorary pallbearers during some of this week's events honoring the 41st president. On Twitter, the agency shared photos of when Bush shaved his head to support an agent's 2-year-old son who had leukemia.

Bush was buried next to his wife, Barbara, and their daughter Robin, who died of leukemia at age 3. Bush spokesman Jim McGrath tweeted photos from the private service. □

Man who drove into crowd convicted of first-degree murder

By DENISE LAVOIE

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. (AP) — A man who drove his car into a crowd of counterprotesters at a white nationalist rally in Virginia was convicted Friday of first-degree murder for killing a woman in an attack that inflamed long-simmering racial and political tensions across the country.

A state jury rejected arguments that James Alex Fields Jr. acted in self-defense during a "Unite the Right" rally in Charlottesville on Aug. 12, 2017. Jurors also convicted Fields of eight other charges, including aggravated malicious wounding and hit and run.

Fields, 21, drove to Virginia from his home in Maumee, Ohio, to support the white nationalists. As a large group of counterprotesters marched through Charlottesville singing and laughing, he stopped his car, backed up, then sped into the crowd, according to testimony from witnesses and video surveillance shown to jurors.

Prosecutors told the jury that Fields was angry after witnessing violent clashes between the two sides earlier in the day. The violence prompted police to shut down the rally before it even officially began.

Heather Heyer, a 32-year-old paralegal and civil rights activist, was killed, and nearly three dozen others were injured. The trial featured emotional testimony from survivors who described devastating injuries and long, complicated recoveries.

The far-right rally had been organized in part to protest the planned removal of a statue of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee. Hundreds of Ku Klux Klan members, neo-Nazis and other white nationalists — emboldened by the election of President Donald Trump — streamed into the college town for one of the largest gatherings of white supremacists in a decade. Some dressed in battle gear.



This undated file photo provided by the Albemarle-Charlottesville Regional Jail shows James Alex Fields Jr.

Associated Press

Afterward, Trump inflamed tensions even further when he said "both sides" were to blame, a comment some saw as a refusal to condemn racism.

According to one of his former teachers, Fields was known in high school for being fascinated with Nazism and idolizing Adolf Hitler. Jurors were shown a text message he sent to his mother days before the rally that included an image of the notorious German dictator. When his mother pleaded with him to be careful, he replied: "we're not the one (sic) who need to be careful."

During one of two recorded phone calls Fields made to his mother from jail in the months after he was arrested, he told her he had been mobbed "by a violent group of terrorists" at the rally. In another, Fields referred to the mother of the woman who was killed as a "communist" and "one of those anti-white supremacists." He posted the meme publicly to his Instagram page and sent a similar image as a private message to a friend in May 2017. □



This aerial photo taken from video provided by KABC-TV shows traffic at a standstill on Interstate 5 near Gorman, Calif., early Thursday, Dec. 6, 2018.

Associated Press

Storm brings record rainfall, snow to Southern California

By AMANDA LEE MYERS

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Crews were busy Friday assessing damage and cleaning up after a storm that brought record rainfall to Los Angeles, snowfall to northern elevations, snarled traffic and forced evacuations as debris flows hit areas burned by wildfires. Evacuation orders were either lifted or downgraded Thursday night and Friday morning as the storm moved out of the area. That includes the area of Orange County's Trabuco Creek, which overflowed with debris that took down a guardrail and overcame a narrow bridge. Workers need to clear out the debris from the bridge and install a new guardrail. Other crews were focused on Malibu, where a mudslide shut down the Pacific Coast Highway and surrounding roads in and around neighborhoods charred by wildfire last month that destroyed more than 1,000 homes and killed three people. There were no reported injuries associated with the mudslide or debris flows and no homes were seriously damaged, though multiple people had to be rescued in Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside and San Diego counties as water overcame roadways and at times submerged cars.

More than 300 people living in a San Diego shelter had to be evacuated to a stadium.

The storm also caused several roof collapses and sent an airliner skidding off a runway in Burbank, though no associated injuries were reported.

"It did cause a lot of headaches," said Eric Boldt, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service. He said the storm was more typical of January or February for the region and called it a win for drought-weary Los Angeles.

"It does put us ahead for

Los Angeles," he said. "It's kind of a good start for December."

The downtown area set a rainfall record for the day with 1.9 inches (4.8 centimeters) of rain, nearly double the previous record set in 1997, the National Weather Service reported. Normal monthly rainfall for December is only a bit more — 2.33 inches (5.8 centimeters).

Rainfall also broke a record in the high-desert city of Lancaster, northeast of Los Angeles. That city saw 1.4 inches (3.5 centimeters) of rain, beating the previous record of 1.2 inches (3 centimeters) in 1997.

Other total rainfalls exceeded 4.5 inches (11.4 centimeters) in some parts of Los Angeles County, including Avalon and the

Pasadena foothills, and in San Diego County.

Some residents took advantage of the rare rainy day, with at least one man captured on video surfing down the street as an SUV pulled him. Another paddle-boarded in a wet-suit near a flooded truck in Costa Mesa.

While rain caused numerous accidents and backups on LA-area freeways, heavy snow forced the closure of Interstate 5 in the Grapevine area between Los Angeles and the San Joaquin Valley. The hours-long shutdown along the key north-south route caused backups for miles. Drivers were urged to use caution on mountain passes, where up to 10 feet (3 meters) of snow fell at higher elevations. □

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A black and white photograph of a signpost. The top part of the sign reads "ARUBA Clean" in large letters. Below that, in smaller letters, is "HELP US KEEP ARUBA CLEAN". At the bottom of the sign, the word "DUSHI" is written in large, bold letters. The background shows a sandy beach and some tropical foliage.

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Caregivers for 3600 migrant teens lack complete abuse checks

By MARTHA MENDOZA and GARANCE BURKE
Associated Press

Nearly every adult working with children in the U.S. — from nannies to teachers to coaches — has undergone state screenings to ensure they have no proven history of abusing or neglecting kids. One exception: thousands of workers at two federal detention facilities holding 3,600 migrant teens in the government's care, The Associated Press has learned.

The staff isn't being screened for child abuse and neglect at a Miami-based emergency detention center because Florida law bans any outside employer from reviewing information in its child welfare system. Until recently at another facility holding migrant teens in Tornillo, Texas, staff hadn't even undergone FBI fingerprint checks, let alone child welfare screenings, a government report found.

The missing screening at both sites involves searching child protective services systems to see whether potential employees had a verified allegation of abuse, neglect or abandonment, which could range from having a foster child run away from a group home to failing to take a sick child to the hospital. These allegations often are not criminally prosecuted and therefore wouldn't show up in other screenings.

Tornillo has 2,100 staff for about 2,300 teens; Homestead has 2,000 staff for about 1,300 teens.



In this Wednesday, June 20, 2018 file photo, immigrant children walk in a line outside the Homestead Temporary Shelter for Unaccompanied Children, a former Job Corps site that now houses them, in Homestead, Fla.

Associated Press

The two facilities can operate unlicensed and without required checks because they are located on federal property and thus don't have to comply with state child welfare laws. Tornillo is on Customs and Border Protection land along the U.S.-Mexico border, and Homestead is on a former Labor Department Jobs Corps site.

Last week, bipartisan lawmakers from Texas and beyond called for swift reforms and public hearings after the AP reported that the government put thousands of teens at risk at Tornillo by waiving the security screenings and having fewer mental health workers than needed. And on Tuesday, two members

of Congress called for the immediate shutdown of Tornillo.

The government report said the screenings were waived at Tornillo because the agency was under pressure to open the camp quickly and the federal government erroneously assumed staff members already had FBI fingerprint checks.

Except for Homestead, every child shelter and foster care facility in Florida — including two others holding migrant children — runs employees' names through child protective services records.

State law prohibits the Florida Department of Children and Families from sharing results of those checks

more widely due to concerns that child protective services might be reluctant to flag an individual, and thereby avoid providing services such as parenting classes for them, if it could put the person's job in jeopardy.

Health and Human Services Department spokesman Mark Weber said Homestead didn't need the extensive background screenings.

"Child abuse and neglect checks were waived because of the limitations in the state of Florida and the fingerprint background checks conducted on employees would show relevant information," he said. Tornillo launched a month-long program to run staff

through FBI fingerprint checks last week in response to a wave of public pressure prompted by the government memo and media reports about the lack of staff screening there.

Child welfare experts say child abuse and neglect background screenings are typically required because some people who hurt children may never be convicted of criminal charges serious enough to warrant an FBI red flag but could be charged civilly, which would appear only in state registries.

"An FBI background check doesn't provide a full and complete picture of that individual's criminal history," said Alonzo Martinez, associate counselor for compliance at HireRight, a private employer background check service. Local police departments aren't required to enter fingerprints of offenders in the FBI database and deeper checks — including reviewing state and county child abuse registries — can turn up different information about potential applicants, Martinez said.

During his time serving as the director of the Office of Refugee Resettlement, Scott Lloyd granted screening waivers for both Homestead and Tornillo, which was allowed under federal rules since the shelters were opened on a temporary basis. Homestead has been open for eight months and Tornillo for five, however, with no indication they will close. □



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Survivors gather at Pearl Harbor for attack remembrance

By AUDREY McAVOY

Associated Press

PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii (AP) — About 20 survivors

gathered at Pearl Harbor on Friday to pay tribute to the thousands of men lost in the Japanese attack 77 years ago.

They joined dignitaries, active duty troops and members of the public in observing a moment of silence at 7:55 a.m., the time the bombing began on Dec. 7, 1941.

John Mathrusse was an 18-year-old seaman second class walking out of the chow hall on Ford Island to see a friend on the USS West Virginia when the bombing began.

"The guys were getting hurt, bombs and shells going off in the water. I helped the ones that couldn't swim, who were too badly injured or whatever and helped them to shore," said Mathrusse, now 95.

Mathrusse, who traveled to Hawaii for the event from Mountain View, California, remembers carrying injured people to the mess hall and setting them on mattresses grabbed from the barracks above.

Robert Fernandez, who was assigned to the USS Curtiss, recalls being petrified.

"I was kind of nervous too. I

was scared. I was 17. I went to go see the world. What did I get into? A war," he said.

The 94-year-old from Stockton, California returns for the annual remembrance each year because he's now alone after his wife died four years ago.

Adm. Phil Davidson, commander of the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, said the nation can never forget the heavy price paid on that day. He cited 21 vessels damaged or sunk, 170 planes destroyed, more than 2,400 people dead, including servicemen and civilians.

"Despite these losses, it did not break the American spirit. In fact, it charged it," he said in a keynote address.

The survivors are declining in number as they push well into their 90s, and are increasingly treated as celebrities. They say people ask for their autographs and request to take photos and selfies with them.

"I am given a lot of attention and honor. I shake hands continuously," said Tom Berg, who lives in Port Townsend, Washington. Berg, who is 96, served on the USS Tennessee.

This year, no survivor from the USS Arizona attended



Pearl Harbor survivors salute during the National Anthem at a ceremony in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii on Friday, Dec. 7, 2018 marking the 77th anniversary of the Japanese attack.

Associated Press

the ceremony as none of the men were able to make the trip to Hawaii. The Arizona sank after two bombs hit the ship, triggering tremendous explosions. The Arizona lost 1,177 sailors and Marines, the greatest number of casualties from any ship. Most remain entombed in the sunken hull of the battleship at the bottom of the harbor.

Dozens of those killed in the attack have been recently identified and reburied in cemeteries across the country after the military

launched a new effort to analyze bones and DNA of hundreds long classified as "unknowns."

In 2015, 388 sets of remains were exhumed from the USS Oklahoma and buried in a national cemetery in Honolulu. The Oklahoma had the second-highest number of dead after the Arizona at 429, though only 35 were identified in the immediate years after the attack.

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency has identified 168 sailors and

Marines from the Oklahoma since the exhumations three years ago. It has said it expects to identify about 80 percent of the 388 by 2020.

Several families were scheduled to rebury their newly identified loved ones on Friday, including Navy Seaman 1st Class William Bruesewitz of Appleton, Wisconsin.

His remains were buried at Arlington National Cemetery near Washington, D.C. □

Alaska Native tribes seek help from human rights commission

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP) —

Fifteen tribal nations in southeast Alaska have petitioned an international commission for human rights for help in influencing the Canadian government to take action against six mines in British Columbia.

The Southeast Alaska Indigenous Transboundary Commission filed the petition Wednesday, seeking

support in obtaining relief from mine violations, the Juneau Empire reported. The petition sent to the Washington, D.C.-based Inter-American Commission on Human Rights claims the mines are likely to pollute rivers, threatening fish populations essential to maintaining life in the tribes.

They claim that failing to prevent pollution in Alaska

watersheds could constitute a violation of indigenous people's rights. The petition also claims Canada did not consult with or seek consent from the tribes during the permitting and approval process of the mines.

Earthjustice, a nonprofit environmental law firm, has been working with the transboundary commission

for about year on drafting the 215-page petition.

"We are hoping the commission will pick up the case," said Ramin Pejan, an Earthjustice attorney. "The goal here really is to inject or raise human rights violations as a key part of the narrative with these mines, and that has been missing in the approval process thus far."

The petition makes three main requests of the human rights commission: They visit the mines to investigate and confirm threats, they hold a hearing to investigate the petition's claims, and they prepare a report setting forth the facts and laws regarding Canada's failure to implement adequate protective measures. □

Merkel ally becomes German conservative party's leader

By GEIR MOULSON

KERSTIN SOPKE

Associated Press

HAMBURG, Germany (AP)

— Angela Merkel's center-right party elected an ally of the longtime German chancellor as its new leader on Friday, opting for continuity and experience as it handed her the challenge of opening a new chapter and improving the party's electoral fortunes.

Anneliese Kramp-Karrenbauer, 56, narrowly defeated one-time Merkel rival Friedrich Merz to become the Christian Democratic Union's new chairwoman. The vote came hours after the party feted Merkel with a lengthy standing ovation as she wrapped up 18 years at the helm.

Merkel has said she plans to remain chancellor until Germany's next election, which is due in 2021 but could come earlier. Kramp-Karrenbauer, the CDU general secretary since February and previously a popular state governor, is now the favorite to run for chancellor in that vote. That isn't automatic, but all but two of Kramp-Karrenbauer's seven predecessors as CDU leader became chancellor.

She was quick to call for party unity after defeating Merz 517-482 on Friday, saying "there is a place in this party" for Merz and Health Minister Jens Spahn, who was eliminated in a first round of voting at a congress in Hamburg.

Merz stood for a more conservative, business-friendly approach than Merkel,



CDU general secretary Anneliese Kramp-Karrenbauer delivers her speech when running as chairwoman at the party convention of the Christian Democratic Party CDU in Hamburg, Germany, Friday, Dec. 7, 2018.

Associated Press

while Kramp-Karrenbauer — often known as "AKK" — was closer to Merkel's centrist stance. Kramp-Karrenbauer said she wants to ensure that the CDU avoids the fate of shrinking center-right parties in France and elsewhere.

"We're a bit like the last unicorn in Europe — the last big people's party that still exists," she told delegates before the vote. "I want that to be the case tomorrow too. This Europe, this Germany, this world needs a strong CDU."

Kramp-Karrenbauer has shown a greater willingness than Merkel to cater to conservative rhetoric, and on Friday rejected the notion that she would be a Merkel clone.

"I've read a lot about what I am and who I am — 'mini,'

'a copy,' 'simply carrying on the same way,'" she said. "I stand here as I am and how life has formed me, and I am proud of that."

She described herself as a mother of three "who knows herself how difficult it is to reconcile family and professional life" and listed her long experience in regional government.

Kramp-Karrenbauer was the first woman to be a German state's interior minister, or top security official, and served as the governor of western Saarland state, defying expectations to win re-election by a wide margin last year. In February, she gave up the governor's job to become the CDU's general secretary, managing the party's day-to-day political strategy.

In 18 years of experience,

she said she "learned that leadership is more about internal strength than external volume." And she said the CDU must attract voters with its own ideas, not by competing to see "who attacks our political opponents the hardest."

In his speech, Merz highlighted the need to tackle the "intolerable" success of the far-right Alternative for Germany party and called for a more combative approach toward the CDU's rivals in the political center ground.

Merz, who was the CDU's parliamentary leader until he was pushed out of the job by Merkel in 2002, had sought a spectacular comeback in Friday's vote after a decade away from front-line politics.

Merkel has been CDU lead-

er since 2000 and chancellor since 2005. She has moved her party relentlessly to the center, dropping military conscription, accelerating Germany's exit from nuclear energy and introducing benefits such as encouraging fathers to look after their young children. She also allowed the introduction of gay marriage, which Kramp-Karrenbauer was more vehement in opposing.

Most controversially, Merkel allowed in large numbers of migrants in 2015. Kramp-Karrenbauer has talked tough on immigration issues in recent weeks, but warned that endlessly rehashing the debate about Merkel's 2015 decision on migrants is a turn-off for voters.

In her farewell speech as leader, the 64-year-old Merkel said Friday that "our CDU today is different from the year 2000, and that is a good thing."

For years, Merkel's popularity lifted the CDU and its Bavaria-only sister party, the Christian Social Union. In the 2013 election, they won 41.5 percent of the vote and only just fell short of an outright parliamentary majority.

At present, the center-right bloc is polling around or below 30 percent. Merkel's fourth-term governing coalition with the center-left Social Democrats has lurched through a series of crises since taking office in March, and the CDU has lost supporters both to the liberal Greens and to Alternative for Germany. □

Groups say 13 climate activists deported from Poland

Associated Press

KATOWICE, Poland (AP)

Environmental groups said Friday that at least 13 activists traveling to Poland to take part in the U.N. climate summit have been deported or denied entry by authorities.

The Climate Action Network, an umbrella group of hundreds of organizations from around the world, criticized the actions of Pol-

ish police, calling them "extremely worrying."

It named one of those denied entry as Belgium-based activist Zanna Vanrenterghem. It said she had been traveling by train when she was stopped by police at Poland's border with the Czech Republic.

"It was said that she was a threat to Polish security," said Wendel Trio, the director of CAN's European of-

fice.

He said Vanrenterghem, who spoke during a large protest in Brussels last weekend, was taken to a police station in the town of Bielsko Biala, where she was interrogated and then told she would be deported on a train back to Vienna overnight.

"She seems to have been on a blacklist," said Trio, adding that attempts by

Belgian diplomats to intervene were unsuccessful.

A Polish border guards' spokeswoman said she had no information about the matter.

Environmental group 350.org said the other activists affected include six from Ukraine, two each the United States and Germany, and one each from Kyrgyzstan and Georgia.

The two-week climate

meeting in Poland's southern city of Katowice brings together officials from almost 200 countries, campaign groups, scientists and businesses to discuss efforts to tackle global warming.

Climate activists are planning to march through Katowice on Saturday to press for more action from governments against climate change. □

Armenians set to cast ballots in snap parliamentary vote

By AVET DEMOURIAN

Associated Press

YEREVAN, Armenia (AP) —

Armenians are set to vote in a snap parliamentary election this Sunday that is expected to cement the rule of the new prime minister who spearheaded the massive protests earlier this year that forced the resignation of his predecessor.

The charismatic 43-year-old Nikol Pashinian, who took office in May, pushed for the elections in a bid to win control of a parliament that was dominated by his political foes.

Pashinian, a former journalist turned politician, has tapped into public anger over widespread poverty, high unemployment and rampant corruption in the landlocked former Soviet nation of 3 million that borders Georgia, Azerbaijan, Turkey and Iran. His fiery rhetoric and easy style have helped cement his popularity.

Opinion polls have indicated that Pashinian's My Step alliance is set to sweep the vote, while the Republican Party that controlled the old parliament is trailing far behind.

The protests in Armenia



In this file photo taken on Thursday, April 26, 2018, Nikol Pashinian gestures as he speaks to demonstrators gathered at Republic Square in Yerevan, Armenia.

Associated Press

erupted in April when Serzh Sargsyan, who had served as president for a decade, moved into the prime minister's seat, a move seen by critics as an attempt to hold on to power following a constitutional reform that had shifted most power to the prime minister's office. Thousands of protesters led by Pashinian thronged the center of the Armenian capital, forcing Sargsyan to

step down days later. The former president has kept a low profile and his Republican Party has largely remained on the defensive, reluctantly submitting to Pashinian's demand to hold early parliamentary elections.

During the monthlong campaign, Pashinian has blasted members of the old elite as corrupt and pledged to revive the economy, cre-

ate new jobs and encourage more Armenians to return home.

"We have carried out a political revolution, and now we must make an economic revolution," Pashinian said on a recent campaign trip. "We set big and difficult goals and we will achieve them, because we are a powerful, victorious free and happy nation."

The Republican Party shot

back at Pashinian, criticizing what it described as his populist statements and divisive rhetoric.

"Pashinian has been unable to solve social problems, so he has turned to making shows," snapped Eduard Sharmazanov, a Republican Party member who served as deputy speaker.

On Friday, an Armenian court put former Armenian President Robert Kocharian in custody on charges linked to a police crackdown on a 2008 protest.

Kocharian rejected the charges, calling them a political vendetta by Pashinian, who staged the 2008 post-election protest. The Republican Party denounced the ex-president's arrest as an attempt by Pashinian "to create an atmosphere of fear and to pressure political opponents." Armenia has been weakened by an economic blockade stemming from the conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh, a region of Azerbaijan that has been under the control of ethnic Armenian forces backed by Armenia since the end of a six-year separatist war in 1994. □

Russia and Greece say spat over diplomats expulsions is over

By VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV

Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — Russia and Greece have overcome a rift over the expulsions of diplomats that strained their traditionally friendly ties, the countries' leaders said Friday.

Greece in July expelled two Russian diplomats amid allegations they helped fund protests against a deal between Greece and its northern neighbor Macedonia intended to pave the way for Macedonia to join NATO.

Russia angrily rejected the claim and responded in kind, expelling two Greek diplomats in August.

Russian President Vladimir Putin said after Friday's talks with Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras in the Kremlin that Russia still con-

siders the Greek action unfounded.

"I can hardly imagine that any reasonable person in Greece or in Russia could think that Russia was involved in any machinations or plots against Greece, the Russian leader said. "It's sheer nonsense."

Putin noted that any such tensions could be solved without "theatrical gestures," but added "that page has been turned."

Tsipras also said Greece considers the dispute closed and emphasized the importance of his country's close ties with Russia. "This issue has been solved, and I believe that we should look forward," he said.

Tsipras noted that Greece has underlined the importance of constructive re-



Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras, left, and Russian President Vladimir Putin pose for a photo prior to their talks in the Kremlin in Moscow, Russia, Friday, Dec. 7, 2018.

Associated Press

believes that European security architecture can't exclude Russia," he said. "That is the position I have taken at all international forums."

The two leaders said they discussed the prospect of shipments of Russian natural gas to southern Europe via Greece.

Last month, Russia and Turkey announced the completion of the offshore part of TurkStream pipeline deep in the Black Sea that would supply Russian gas to Turkey.

Putin said Friday that the new pipeline could potentially be extended to ship Russian gas to Greece and other countries in southern Europe. "I believe it's quite realistic," he said. □

lations with Russia in dialogue with its European Union and NATO partners amid tensions between

Russia and the West. "Greece must fulfill its obligations as a member of the EU and NATO, but it

Japan to OK divisive bill allowing more foreign workers

By MARI YAMAGUCHI

Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — Japan is preparing to officially open the door to foreign workers to do unskilled jobs and possibly eventually become citizens.

Lawmakers were to vote early Saturday on government-proposed legislation allowing hundreds of thousands of foreign laborers to live and work in a country that has long resisted accepting outsiders. The bill is expected to pass because of the ruling party's majority in parliament.

It's seen as an unavoidable step as the country's population of about 126 million rapidly ages and shrinks.

Many short-handed industries, especially in the services sector, already rely heavily on foreign "trainees" and language students. The country also selectively grants visas to white-collar professionals, often from the west.

Bringing in foreign laborers is a last resort after Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's deeply conservative government tried to meet labor shortages by encouraging more employment of women and older workers and using more robots and other automation.

"Japan has come to a point where we had to face the reality that there is serious depopulation and serious aging," said Toshihiro Menju, an expert on for-



In this Dec. 6, 2018 photo, Toshihiro Menju, Managing Director and Chief Program Officer of Japan Center for International Exchange speaks in Tokyo during an interview with the Associated Press.

Associated Press

eign labor and population issues at the Japan Center for International Exchange. "Shortages of workers are so serious ... that (allowing) immigrants is the only option the government can take," he said.

Abe's latest plan calls for relaxing Japan's visa requirements in sectors facing severe labor shortages such as construction, nursing, farming, transport and tourism — new categories of jobs to be added to the current list of highly skilled professionals.

The number of foreign workers in Japan has more

than doubled since 2000 to nearly 1.3 million last year, out of a working-age population of 67 million. Workers from developing Asian countries used to stay mostly behind the scenes, but not anymore. Almost all convenience stores are partly staffed by Asian workers and so are many restaurant chains. The fastest growing group of foreign workers is Vietnamese, many of whom are employed in construction and nursing. Construction workers are particularly in demand as Japan rushes to finish building venues

and other infrastructure for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

In many cases the workers are subjected to poor working conditions and other abuses.

"I had no time for a holiday. ... Even if I worked so hard I still had no money," said Eng Pisey, 33, from Cambodia, who came to Japan on a training program in 2016 and worked at a garment factory in Tochigi, north of Tokyo. She said she had to borrow \$4,000 to pay a broker to arrange her job, and ended up quitting after becoming ill from overwork.

Under the legislation, two

categories of workers will be accepted beginning in April: less-skilled workers and former interns with basic Japanese competency are allowed to stay in the country for only up to five years as visitors and cannot bring in family members. That is meant to encourage them to leave when their visas expire, preventing them from settling in Japan.

The second category, those with higher skills, Japanese language and cultural understanding, would be allowed to bring their families and apply for citizenship after living in Japan for 10 years if they commit no crimes.

"Creating new visa statuses to accommodate foreign human resources is our urgent task as we face serious labor shortages, especially at small and medium-size companies," Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said Friday.

Many Japanese understand the need to solve labor shortages. Industry groups have urged the government to expand the work visa program so they can legally hire more foreign workers.

But Abe's traditional political base and opposition groups oppose the change — for different reasons.

Abe has denied that Japan is opening the door to immigrants. □



In this Dec. 3, 2018 photo, former Defense Security Command head Gen. Lee Jae-su, center, arrives for a court hearing on his arrest warrant on charges of the illegal surveillance of families of people killed in a 2014 ferry sinking, at the Seoul Central District Court in Seoul, South Korea.

Associated Press

Ex-intel chief in South Korea found dead in possible suicide

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — A former South Korean military intelligence chief was found dead on Friday, police said, in a suspected suicide.

Former Defense Security Command head Lee Jae-su was being investigated by state prosecutors for allegedly ordering the illegal surveillance of families of people killed in a 2014 ferry sinking. Lee, a retired three-star general, had denied

the allegation.

The disaster killed more than 300 people, mostly high school students, and touched off widespread criticism of then President Park Geun-hye. She was eventually ousted from office over a corruption scandal in March 2017.

Police said Lee's body was found near a Seoul building on Friday.

Yonhap news agency said Lee appeared to have jumped to his death and

that a suicide note was found.

The Defense Ministry had no immediate comment.

South Korea has one of the highest suicide rates among developed countries. A string of business executives, K-pop stars and other celebrities have killed themselves in recent years. In July, an opposition lawmaker embroiled in a corruption case, Roh Hoe-chan, leapt to his death. □

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Ex-inmates: Torture rife in prisons run by Yemen rebels

By MAGGIE MICHAEL

Associated Press

MARIB, Yemen (AP) — Farouk Baakar's mistake was taking a selfie.

The Yemeni medic was on duty at al-Rashid hospital the day when a bleeding man was brought into the emergency room with gunshot wounds and signs of torture. He had been dumped on the side of a highway after being held in a prison run by the Houthi militiamen who control northern Yemen. He'd been whipped across the back and hung by his wrists for days.

Baakar spent hours removing bullets and repairing ruptured intestine. He tended to the patient's recovery for 80 days and, at the end, agreed to pose for a selfie with him.

Weeks later, Houthi security officials grabbed the man again. They searched his phone and found the photo.

Militiamen stormed the hospital in the port city of Hodeida, blindfolded Baakar and hustled him away in a pickup truck. Because he'd given medical help to an enemy of the Houthis, they told him, he was now their enemy too. After his arrest in mid-2016, he spent 18 months imprisoned. During that time, he says, they burned him, beat him and chained him to the ceiling by his wrists.

Baakar and his patient are among thousands imprisoned by Houthi rebels during Yemen's four-year civil war. Many of them, an Associated Press inves-



Nurses change the dressings on the severe burns covering Monir al-Shaqi, at the Marib General Hospital in Yemen in this July 25, 2018 photo.

Associated Press

tigation found, suffered extreme torture — smashed in their faces with batons, hung by their wrists or genitals for weeks at a time or scorched with acid.

The AP spoke with 23 people who said they survived or witnessed torture in Houthi detention sites, as well as with eight relatives of detainees, five lawyers and rights activists, and three security officers involved in previous prisoner swaps who said they saw marks of torture on inmates. These accounts underscore the significance of an agreement on a prisoner swap reached in Sweden on Thursday at the start of U.N.-sponsored peace talks between Yemen's Shiite Houthi rebels and the Yemeni government, backed by Saudi Arabia and the

United States. As a trust-building measure, the two sides agreed to release several thousand prisoners, though details still must be hammered out.

But while the government would release captured Houthi fighters, the rebels would largely free civilians who, like Baakar, were imprisoned during sweeps aimed at suppressing opposition and obtaining captives who could be traded for ransom or exchanged for Houthi fighters held by the other side.

The Abductees' Mothers Union, an association of female relatives of detainees jailed by Houthis, has documented more than 18,000 detainees in the last four years, including 1,000 cases of torture in a network of secret prisons, according

to Sabah Mohammed, a representative of the group in the city of Marib.

The mothers' group says at least 126 prisoners have died from torture since the Houthis took over the capital, Sanaa, in late 2014.

Amnesty International says that "horrific human rights abuses, as well as war crimes, are being committed throughout the country by all parties to the conflict."

But international outrage over the bloodshed in Yemen has largely focused on abuses carried out by the U.S.-backed and Saudi-led military coalition fighting on the side of the Yemeni government. The AP has exposed torture at secret prisons run by the United Arab Emirates and their Yemeni allies and has document-

ed the deaths of civilians from strikes by drones in the United States' campaign against al-Qaida's branch in Yemen.

Abuses by the Houthis have been less visible to the outside world.

Houthi leaders previously have denied they engage in torture, though they did not respond to repeated AP requests for comment in recent weeks. The Houthis' Human Rights Ministry said in late 2016 that "there is no policy or systematic use of torture on prisoners."

But within the movement, a moderate faction has acknowledged abuses and sought to end them. Yahia al-Houthi, the brother of the group's top leader, set up a committee in 2016 to investigate reports of torture. It helped free 13,500 prisoners in its first three months.

The committee sent a video report to the leader, Abdel-Malek al-Houthi, showing scenes of overcrowded prison wards along with testimony from senior Houthis on the committee who said they saw signs of torture. The video was not made public, but the AP obtained a copy.

"What we saw would make you cry tears of blood," one committee member says in the video.

Abdel-Malek never responded to the video. Instead, hard-line security officials shut down the committee and briefly detained two of its members.

The video report echoes the accounts victims gave to the AP. □

Brazil future unclear amid opposing ideologies of ministers

By DIANE JEANTET

Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — With his inauguration just weeks away, Brazilian President-elect Jair Bolsonaro is assembling a Cabinet of ministers with starkly different views on key issues like climate change, the economy and China that is raising questions about the direction the far-right leader will take Latin America's largest nation.

Since being elected in October, Bolsonaro has appointed a finance minister schooled in neoliberal economics, a foreign minister who describes globalization as "an anti-human and anti-Christian system," supporters and critics of China's role in the region, several retired military generals and a justice minister who is arguably the world's most renowned corruption fighter.

Analysts say the eclectic choices made by the former army captain who takes office on Jan. 1 portend clashes not only within his Cabinet but possibly with Bolsonaro himself, since some of their views are at odds with his campaign promises.

"We are already seeing clear signals of tensions," said Oliver Stuenkel, an international relations professor at the Fundacao Getulio Vargas university and think tank.

Numerous requests for comment from Bolsonaro and his incoming ministers were not answered.

Arguably the incoming government's most antagonistic figure is the future foreign minister, Ernesto Araujo, who has never served as ambassador or in a top position in the foreign ministry in his nearly 30 years of public service.

On his blog, Araujo wrote that he wanted to "help Brazil and the world liberate itself from the globalist ideology," and globalism was "an anti-human and anti-Christian system" piloted by "cultural Marxism" to promote China.

Like Bolsonaro, who cam-



In this Nov. 6, 2018 file photo, Brazilian President-elect Jair Bolsonaro, right, and his Vice President Gen. Hamilton Mourao attend a ceremony marking the 30th anniversary of Brazil's constitution at Congress in Brasilia, Brazil.

Associated Press

paigns on a nationalist anti-crime, anti-socialism, pro-"traditional Brazilian values" ticket, Araujo sees China and the billions of dollars it has invested in Brazil's energy, infrastructure and oil and gas industry as threats to the country's sovereignty.

But Latin America's largest economy clearly needs China for more than investment: the Asian giant was Brazil's top destination for exports, amounting to US\$47 billion, according to Brazilian government data. Araujo's antagonism toward China will meet resistance not only from Brazilian companies but from other powerful ministers who see China very differently, especially future finance minister Paulo Guedes.

Guedes, who holds a doctorate from the University of Chicago, rallied much of the business community behind Bolsonaro's campaign with promises to cut government spending, privatize many industries and increase foreign investment.

Early in the campaign, Guedes was introduced to Bolsonaro by Brazilian businessman Winston Ling, who

is the son of Chinese immigrants.

Another issue that could spark clashes is Brazil's position on climate change. The world will be watching how Brazil deals with the topic since it is home to much of the vital Amazon rainforest.

Bolsonaro has threatened to withdraw from the Paris Agreement, and vowed to help large mining and agribusiness companies expand their activities in protected areas, including the Amazonian forests. His foreign minister has also expressed skepticism toward climate change, calling it a "dogma" used by the left to foster China's growth.

But an overhaul of environmental policies and Araujo's protectionist views could come at a high cost. Observers say that abandoning the Paris Agreement could lead foreign markets, such as the European Union, to boycott certain Brazilian products. Guedes and future Agricultural Minister Tereza Cristina are likely to oppose any measure that would imperil Brazil's relationship with key trade partners. "An exacerbated nationalism cannot be justified in a

globalized world," said congressman Alceu Moreira, who leads the powerful farming lobby that backed Bolsonaro's campaign.

Moreira argued that protectionism ended up hurting the efficiency and competitiveness of Brazil's industry.

"We want the people who represent us, at the foreign affairs ministry, to be more qualified," he added in an apparent reference to Araujo.

Jose Alfredo Graca Lima, a former consul-general in New York and Los Angeles, says he believes Guedes will be the predominating voice among Cabinet members.

"But what I keep wondering is who will conduct, who will play the leading role (in Brazil's diplomacy)?" said Graca Lima.

And some of the ministers may even clash with their boss.

Guedes' free-market, privatization vision has at times appeared at odds with that of Bolsonaro, who waxes nostalgic for Brazil's 1964-1985 military dictatorship, a time when the state played a significant role in the economy.

Sergio Moro, who as a

judge oversaw the "Car Wash," one of the largest corruption investigations in history, may also clash with Bolsonaro despite the president-elect's promise not to meddle with his decisions.

With the backdrop of 63,880 homicides recorded in Brazil in 2017, Bolsonaro was largely elected on promises to improve worsening security by confronting street gangs. He has proposed loosening gun laws, bringing back the death penalty and lowering the age of penal responsibility from 18 to 16 or 17.

Moro is unlikely to agree with such proposals, and has already expressed reservations about loosening gun laws. Since being appointed as a super minister in charge of both the justice and public security, Moro has outlined plans to tackle white collar crime but been mum on security.

So far, the seven retired members of the military appointed by Bolsonaro are positioning themselves as wild cards in the future government.

Vice President-elect Hamilton Mourao, a retired general, has made several polemical statements, such as defending torture during Brazil's dictatorship. However, many observers also see him as the adult in the room.

On various occasions, Mourao has tempered Bolsonaro's most contentious positions, such as moving Brazil's embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, following the footsteps of U.S. President Donald Trump.

Brazil is one of the world's top halal meat exporters, and Iran and Egypt are its third and fourth biggest beef buyers, according to data from the Brazilian Beef Exporters Association.

"Obviously, it's a question that will have to be well thought out," Mourao told newspaper Folha de S. Paulo.

"We have an important commercial relationship with the Arab world." □

LOCAL



Concert '65': Celebrate Aruba's Music School

ORANJESTAD — The Foundation Aruban Music School/Scol di Musica Rufo Wever celebrates its 65th birthday coming Sunday. For this occasion the pupils will perform under the guidance of their music teachers at 4 PM at the national theatre Cas di Cultura. This is a wonderful occasion to enjoy our young local talented musicians and the best of it all is that entrance is completely free.

The students prepared a variated program in the spirit of the holidays. They will share with you their passion for music and all they have learned at the Scol di Musica Rufo Wever. Typical 'crioyo' songs, regional songs and international songs will be presented. The students will show their skills with different instruments and will perform in different size groups as well as solo. They all worked very hard to get to this end result: a magnificent concert for the community. Your support will be a motivation for the children to continue their musical road. These are the future musicians of Aruba and you are most welcome to enjoy their achievements! Tickets can be obtained at Scol di Musica Rufo Wever or Cas di Cultura or at the door just before the concert starts. □



Aruba's Beach Malmok 6th Best Beach South America & Caribbean

Oranjestad — Flightnetwork.com is one of the world's largest online travel publications, and they have carefully selected and ranked 400 of the World's top Beaches© with the help of 1000 of the industry's leading travel professionals. Aruba has Malmok beach featured in the

Top 50 Central American & Caribbean Beaches category.

FlightNetwork crafted The World's Best Beaches for 2018©, that highlights the best beaches on almost all continents, by conferring with over 1200 journalists, editors, bloggers,

and agencies, who possess endless travel wisdom. The insights we received helped them create a list of beaches that will help traveler's access shores that will leave a magical and indelible imprint.

Malmok at 6
Aruba's divine beach Mal-

mok reached the following score:

Scoring

- Sheer Untouched Beauty : 9/10
- Remoteness : 7/10
- Sand and Water Quality : 9/10
- Annual Days of Sunshine : 300
- Average Annual Temp. : 28°C

Malmok Beach

Malmok Beach in Aruba is cradled in a nook of grey-white rocks and tiny sailboats. A flat beach covered in white sand hides beneath turquoise water where sediment and sea meet. The rocks scattered just off of shore are home to thousands of colorful fish which makes this beach one of the best snorkel destinations in the country.

Accessing Malmok Beach requires you to drive quite a ways from the major resorts on the island, rendering this an untouched, remote location. After a day of enjoying the sand and sun, sip on a glass of wine while peering at an uninterrupted horizon. As the orange sun melts into the crystal waters, you will be mesmerized by the sheer beauty and exclusivity of this incredible destination.

"The scenic drive out to Malmok beach is long, but incredibly worth it once you arrive at this remote paradise." – Ana M, Travel Writer



Source: Campaign: <https://www.flighthnetwork.com/worlds-best-beaches/top-50-central-america-caribbean-beaches/> □

Campaign 5th year anniversary big success**The Casino at The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba celebrated their 5th anniversary widely and made 50 winners happy**

PALM BEACH — The Casino at The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba, had a tremendous campaign going on for the month of November and gave away \$ 50.000 in cash prices and cruise vacations to Cuba. The winners of the campaign were selected in the last week of November and the closure was on Friday November 30.

The night of the campaign's closure a great party was organized and the super happy winners of \$ 25.000 in cash prices were announced that same night. The casino visitors enjoyed a wonderful night with live entertainment of Robert Jeandor y su Solo Banda Show and also the raffle of fantastic prices like Dinner

for Two at restaurants Casa Nonna and BLT Steak at The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba.

The Casino at The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba invites all to pay a visit to the casino and become a member of the VIP Club to be able to enjoy the exclusive benefits of their Tier Program. Every day there are different promotions and many opportunities to win fabulous prizes.

The Casino at The Ritz-Carlton Aruba offers a high quality service and a unique experience. For more information about our promotions, please visit the casino and ask the VIP Desk or call 527-2276 / 527-2277.

□



From left to right: Ms. Soraya Croes, Casino Marketing & VIP Experience Manager, Mr. Axl Ismail, Director of Casino Operations, Ms. Joanna Maya, Casino Communications & Promotions Manager, Mr. Carlo Falconi, Casino Slot Manager.



The winners

**The Aruba Tourism Authority honor loyal visitors on the island**

PALM BEACH — Recently, Darline S. de Cuba had the great pleasure to honor Loyal and friendly visitors of Aruba as Distinguished Visitors at their home away from home.

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The symbolic honorary title is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba between 10-20-35 and more consecutive years.

Ms. Darline de Cuba thanked them for choosing Aruba as their vacation destination and as their home away from home for so many years together with the member of Divi Phoenix Resort.

Visitors stated that the main reasons for returning to Aruba with a nice and memorable history: They loved the weather, people of Aruba, and the Sunset. □





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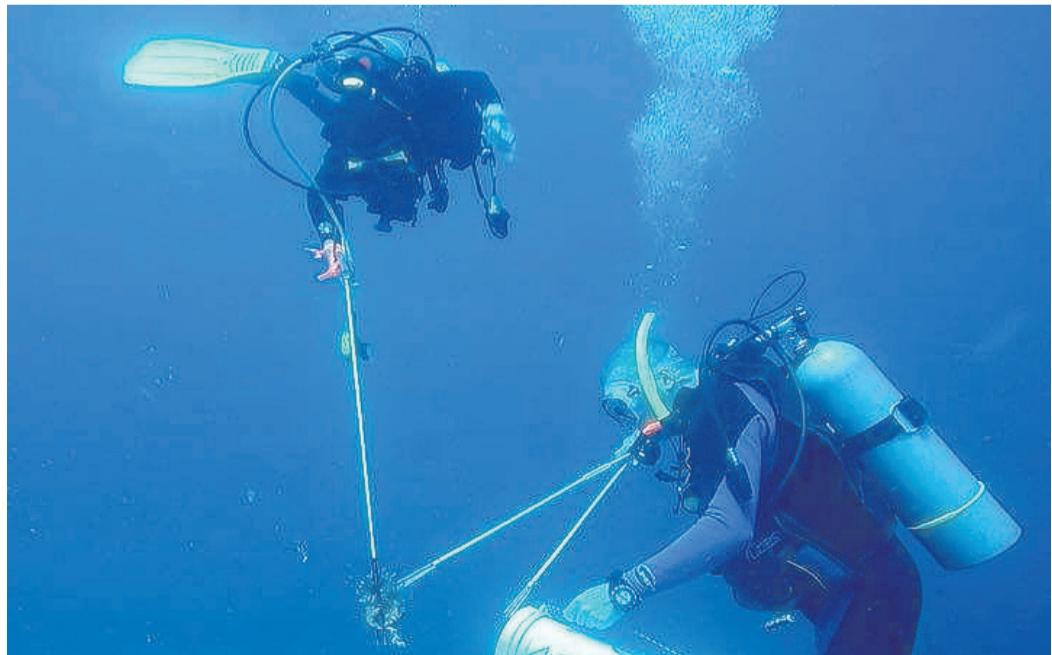
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SAVANETA — De Palm Island along with the Aruba Lion Fish Initiative Foundation's main goal is to protect Aruba's marine life against invading Lionfish. Because of this they invite you to take action with them this Sunday, December 9th, for the Lionfish Derby finals. There will be a demonstration on the anatomy of a Lionfish and a fillet tasting accompanied by live music!

Aruba LionFish Initiative Foundation is an active, though "business minded" organization. As an innovator it combines idealistic goals to save Aruba's reefs with social entrepreneurship in order to create a business model that actually sustains itself. ALFI is designed to create a permanent 100 % sustainable fishery to manage populations of the invasive lionfish in Aruban waters by purchasing, data collection, information and processing to create a market supply.

For more information visit: www.arubalionfish.org. □





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Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa proudly receives PPL Award 2018

EAGLE BEACH — On Monday December 3 Plat-aforma pa Persona cu Limitacion (PPL), freely translated Platform for Limited Persons, organized a fun talent show together with Stichting Verstandelijke Gehandicapten Aruba (SVGA) or Foundation for the Mentally Limited, in honor of the International Day for Limited Persons.

During the event, Shaline Leon Human Resource Manager at the intimate boutique resort received the honorable PPL-Award 2018 in recognition of the activities organized by Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa. In addition to the difference the resort makes in the lives of the people with limitation working for the property according to Cyndi Kelly-Mathila President of the PPL organization.

In April 2018 the boutique resort organized a special luncheon in cooperation with SVGA. The SVGA which is the organization who helps mentally disabled people with social activities, personal development and studies. During the fun filled luncheon the people enjoyed the festivities in the beautiful beach pavilion. The intimate boutique resort welcomed approximately 300 people spread over two days.

Manchebo is deeply rooted in community and social endeavors throughout Aruba. Local causes and charitable organizations are supported through hosting events, participating in

community programs, sponsorships, donations and many hours of volunteer time from the entire Manchebo team.

To stay up to date on the latest news at Manchebo visit [Facebook.com/Manchebobeach](https://www.facebook.com/Manchebobeach).

□



Cyndi Kelly-Mathila Director at PPL | Shaline Leon HR manager at Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa | Els van Homelen Director at SVGA

SPORTS



In this Sept. 22, 2007, file photo, Pittsburgh Pirates' Jose Castillo reacts after swinging for a strike against the Chicago Cubs during a baseball game in Chicago.

Associated Press

Jose Castillo, Luis Valbuena die in car crash in Venezuela

By FABIOLA SANCHEZ
Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Former major league players Luis Valbuena and Jose Castillo were killed in a car crash caused by highway bandits who then robbed them, officials said Friday.

The 33-year-old Valbuena and 37-year-old Castillo died late Thursday when their SUV crashed as it tried to veer around an object placed in the road, Yaracuy state Gov. Julio Leon Heredia said on his Twitter account.

He said four people have been detained after being found with property of the athletes.

Valbuena and Castillo were teammates on the Cardenales de Lara team in the Venezuelan winter league and were returning from a game in the capital when the crash occurred en route to the city of Barquisimeto.

Third baseman Carlos Rivero was in the car and survived, according to the website [beisbolplay](#).

Continued on Page 21

LEAF BLOWER



Larkin scores in OT, Detroit edges Toronto 5-4

Detroit Red Wings center Dylan Larkin reacts after scoring in overtime NHL against the Toronto Maple Leafs in Toronto on Thursday, Dec. 6, 2018.

Associated Press
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Alex Morgan named U.S. Player of the Year



In this July 26, 2018, file photo, U.S. forward Alex Morgan, right, celebrates her hat trick with defender Tobin Heath (17) and other teammates during the second half of a Tournament of Nations soccer match against Japan, in Kansas City, Kan.

CHICAGO (AP) — Alex Morgan has been named U.S. Soccer's Player of the Year for a second time after leading the national team with 18 goals in 19 games and helping it earn a spot in the World Cup next year in France.

Defender Tierna Davidson, who started in her first nine national team appearances, was named Young Player of the Year, U.S. Soccer announced Friday. The 19-year-old's college season at Stanford was cut short when she broke her ankle in September.

Morgan scored seven of her goals during the CONCACAF World Cup qualifying tournament this fall to earn the Golden Boot. The U.S. won the tournament and earned a spot in the World Cup. Morgan also

has three assists and has logged 1,500 minutes this year, most of any player on the team.

Morgan also earned Player of the Year honors in 2012, when she had 28 goals and helped the national team win an Olympic title.

The U.S. women's team, ranked No. 1 in the world, went undefeated in 2018 with 19 wins and two ties. That extended the team's overall unbeaten streak to 28 games, dating to a 1-0 loss to Australia in the 2017 Tournament of Nations.

The draw for the World Cup is set for Saturday in Paris. The United States is the defending champion, having won in Canada in 2015.

Morgan currently sits at 98 career international goals. "To be named captain with Megan (Rapinoe) and

Carli (Lloyd), I felt I was challenged to succeed in a really positive way and was comfortable growing into this larger role with the team," Morgan said in a statement. "I'm also pleased that I was able to improve and evolve in my play along the way. There's a good energy to the team right now and we're all really looking forward to getting started next year."

The other nominees for women's player of the year included Julie Ertz, Tobin Heath, Lindsey Horan and Rapinoe. The voting panel includes the national team coaches, players who have made at least one appearance with the team this year, members of the U.S. Soccer Board of Directors, members of the media and other select panelists. □



In this July 5, 2015, file photo, the United States Women's National Team celebrates after they beat Japan in the FIFA Women's World Cup soccer championship in Vancouver, British Columbia.

Associated Press

U.S. women to open 2019 at France, play Mexico in send-off

CHICAGO (AP) — The United States women's soccer team will open next year with games at World Cup host France and Spain and finish a 10-game schedule leading to the tournament with a send-off match against Mexico at Harrison, New Jersey, on May 26. The defending world champion Americans play France at Le Havre on Jan. 19 and face Spain at Alicante three days later, the U.S. Soccer Federation said Thursday.

"This schedule checks a lot of important boxes in our preparation for the World Cup. We'll get to experience a variety of teams in regard to their strengths and styles of play and almost all of the countries will be in their World Cup preparation as well," U.S. coach Jill Ellis said in a statement.

The top-ranked U.S. plays England on March 2 at Nashville, Tennessee, and Brazil three days later at

Tampa, Florida, then meets Australia on April 4 at Commerce City, Colorado, and Belgium three days later at Los Angeles.

The Americans close their warmups against South Africa on May 12 at Santa Clara, California, against an opponent to be determined four days later at St. Louis and versus Mexico.

"Japan, which beat the U.S. in the 2011 World Cup final and lost the final to the Americans in 2015, plays the U.S. on Feb. 27 at Chester, Pennsylvania. The top-ranked U.S. plays England on March 2 at Nashville, Tennessee, and Brazil three days later at

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Jazz overcome Gobert's quick ejection, rout Rockets 118-91

By JOHN COON
Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — No Rudy Gobert proved to be no problem for the Jazz on defense.

Utah smothered the Houston Rockets for the better part of four quarters en route to a 118-91 victory Thursday night. The Jazz pestered and pressed Houston into coughing up the ball repeatedly, especially after halftime. The Rockets gave up 22 turnovers and allowed Utah to score 33 points off them. Both were season highs for a Houston opponent.

The Jazz played the bulk of the game without their starting center after Gobert was ejected less than three minutes into the game. He picked up his first foul on the opening tip. After picking up his second at the 9:13 mark of the first quarter, Gobert was tossed after swatting a paper cup off the scorer's table in frustration.

Gobert drew a \$15,000 fine from league officials earlier in the week for criticizing the officiating crew following Utah's 102-100 loss to Miami on Sunday.

His response to the officials ended up being more subdued this time around.

"I just came in to try to play basketball," Gobert said. "Fouls were called and I had a stupid reaction. I think I can blame myself more than anything for that one."

Derrick Favors stepped up in Gobert's absence. Favors totaled a season-high 24 points on 10-of-13 shooting and 10 rebounds in 26 minutes off the bench.

"When Rudy went out, I had an opportunity to just go out and be aggressive and take advantage of the opportunity that was given to me," Favors said. "That's what I did and it paid off for me."

Joe Ingles added 18 points and six rebounds for the Jazz. Utah (13-13) won for the fourth time in five games to climb back to

.500.

Everything unraveled for Houston starting in the third quarter.

The Jazz opened up the second half with a 15-2 spurt. Joe Ingles and Jae Crowder each scored a pair of baskets on Utah's first four possessions to ignite the decisive run that gave the Jazz a 68-47 lead. Houston committed four turnovers in that stretch, leading to eight points for Utah.

"They were driving and kicking and being more active," Rockets coach Mike D'Antoni said.

"They were more athletic, getting to the rim. They just beat us in every which way they could."

the Rockets finished with eight turnovers in the quarter and gave up more points off turnovers (15) than they scored (11). Favors bookended Jazz baskets over three straight possessions with a dunk and a hook shot to give Utah its largest lead at 91-54.

"They got off to a really good start in that third quarter," Rockets guard James Harden said. "They made shots. We didn't make shots. We made a couple of mental errors on defense and they capitalized."

Harden scored 15 points while Chris Paul and Clint Capela added 12 apiece for the Rockets. Houston (11-13) allowed an opponent to pull away in the second half for a second straight game after committing a season-high 22 turnovers and giving up a season-high 33 points off those turnovers.

Utah adjusted well to Gobert's early absence. The Jazz ripped off an 11-0 run to take a 27-16 lead near the end of the first quarter. Favors ignited the spurt with a pair of dunks. Dante Exum finished it off by slashing to the rim on back-to-back possessions for a pair of baskets.

"The game is always going to throw you adversity,"

Jazz coach Quin Snyder said. "It's wrapped in different ways. The way that Derrick responded was terrific.

CELTICS 18, KNICKS 100

BOSTON (AP) — Kyrie Irving scored 22 points before leaving the game in the final minutes nursing his right shoulder, Al Horford had 19 points and 12 rebounds, and Boston coasted past New York.

Jaylen Brown returned after missing three games with a bruised lower back and scored a season-high 21 points. Jayson Tatum added 17 for Boston, which won its fourth straight game and exacted a bit of revenge for a Nov. 21 loss to the Knicks.

Tim Hardaway Jr. scored 22 for New York, which has lost four of its last five games. Enes Kanter had 14 points and 11 rebounds, and Noah Vonleh had 12 and 10.

TRAIL BLAZERS 108, SUNS 86

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Damian Lillard had 25 points and eight assists before sitting for the final quarter and Portland snapped a three-game losing streak with a rout of Phoenix.

Jake Layman came off the bench to score a career-high 24 points for the Blazers, who had lost six of their last seven games.

Portland led by as many as 31 points.

Troy Daniels had a season-high 15 points for the struggling Suns, who were held to nine points in the first quarter for the second consecutive game and have lost seven straight. Phoenix has just four victories this season, and just one on the road.

Phoenix missed T.J. Warren for the fourth straight game because of right ankle soreness and Devin Booker for the second game because of a left hamstring strain. Booker is the team's top scorer, averaging 23.5 points, while Warren averages 17.7. □



Houston Rockets guard James Harden (13) drives around Utah Jazz center Rudy Gobert, left, during the first half of an NBA basketball game Thursday Dec. 6, 2018, in Salt Lake City.

Associated Press

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Larkin lifts Red Wings past Maple Leafs 5-4 in OT

By The Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) — Dylan Larkin scored on a breakaway at 2:48 of overtime and the Detroit Red Wings beat the Toronto Maple Leafs 5-4 on Thursday night after blowing a three-goal lead in the third period.

Larkin beat Garret Sparks between the pads to snap Toronto's five-game winning streak.

Gustav Nyquist set up the winner, and finished a goal and two assists. Mike Green had a goal and an assist, Jonathan Ericsson and Luke Glendening also scored, Larkin had an assist and former Maple Leafs goalie Jonathan Bernier stopped 27 shots.

Andreas Johnsson and Kasperi Kapanen had a goal and an assist each for Toronto. John Tavares and Zach Hyman also scored, and Sparks made 27 saves. William Nylander suited up for his first game since coming to terms with Toronto on a new six-year, \$45 million contract over the weekend. The 22-year-old winger got a mostly warm reception when he stepped on the ice for his first shift, and started on a line with Auston Matthews and Patrick Marleau before getting benched midway through the third period.

PENGUINS 6, ISLANDERS 2

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Phil Kessel had two goals and two assists, and Kris Letang also



Detroit Red Wings center Dylan Larkin (71) moves past Toronto Maple Leafs defenseman Morgan Rielly (44) as Maple Leafs center Auston Matthews (34) watches during the third period of an NHL hockey game Thursday, Dec 6, 2018, in Toronto.

Associated Press

scored twice in Pittsburgh's victory over New York.

Sidney Crosby had his 15th goal and had two assists, and Riley Sheahan scored his fourth goal. The Penguins have won two straight and five of eight following a slump in which they won once in 10 games.

Jake Guentzel had three assists and has a career-best six-game points streak for Pittsburgh.

Casey DeSmith made 19 saves to win for the fifth time in six starts.

Anders Lee and Brock Nel-

son scored for the Islanders.

CAPITALS 4, COYOTES 2

GLendale, Ariz. (AP) — Andre Burakovsky scored late in the third period, Pheonix Copley stopped 27 shots and Washington beat Arizona.

Jakub Vrana scored his third goal in two games and Matt Niskanen had one on his birthday to help the Capitals end Arizona's four-game winning streak. Alex Ovechkin added an empty-net goal and became the fastest player in NHL history — ninth overall — with 5,000 career shots, reaching the mark in 1,031 career games. Marcel Dionne was the previous fastest at 1,215 games.

Christian Fischer and Lawson Crouse scored for Arizona.

LIGHTNING 3, BRUINS 2

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — Mathieu Joseph and Anthony Cirelli scored early in the third period and Tampa Bay beat Boston for its fifth consecutive victory.

After Joseph scored at 2:40, Cirelli put home a short-handed backhand 1:23 later to make it 3-1. Boston pulled to 3-2 on David Krejci's goal with 1:45 remaining.

Brayden Point also scored and Louis Domingue made

33 saves to help the NHL-leading Lightning improve to 22-7-1. David Pastrnak also had a goal for Boston, and Tuukka Rask stopped 27 shots.

BLUE JACKETS 4, FLYERS 3, OT

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Seth Jones scored his second goal of the game 10 seconds into overtime to lift Columbus past Philadelphia.

Cam Atkinson fed a wide-open Jones in the slot moments into overtime, and Jones beat goalie Anthony Stolarz over his left shoulder. Brandon Dubinsky and Boone Jenner also scored for the Blue Jackets, and Atkinson extended his career-best points streak to 12 consecutive games.

Sergei Bobrovsky made 23 saves to improve to 12-3-1 against his former team. Travis Sanheim scored twice, and Claude Giroux had a goal and an assist for the Flyers.

CANADIENS 5, SENATORS 2

OTTAWA, Ontario (AP) — Paul Byron scored twice and Montreal beat Ottawa to sweep the home-and-home series.

Jeff Petry, Brendan Gallagher and Andrew Shaw also scored, and Carey Price stopped 19 shots. The Canadiens also beat the

Senators 5-2 on Tuesday night in Montreal.

Mark Stone and Colin White scored for the Senators, and Craig Anderson stopped 38 shots.

AVALANCHE 5, PANTHERS 2

SUNRISE, Fla. (AP) — Carl Soderberg scored twice, J.T. Compher broke a third-period tie and Colorado beat Florida.

Mikko Rantanen and Gabriel Landeskog also scored, and Philipp Grubauer stopped 33 shots. Aaron Ekblad and Colton Sceviour scored for Florida, and Roberto Luongo made 32 saves in his second game back from a knee injury.

FLAMES 2, WILD 0

CALGARY, Alberta (AP) — Mike Smith made 31 saves, Elias Lindholm scored twice and Calgary beat Minnesota.

Smith got his second shut-out of the season and has won his past five games.

Lindholm scored his 14th and 15th goals of the season and has 32 points in 29 games. His career high is 17 goals, reached with Carolina in 2014-15.

GOLDEN KNIGHTS 4, BLACKHAWKS 3

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Jonathan Marchessault and Alex Tuch scored 12 seconds apart in the third period to send surging Vegas past Chicago.

The Golden Knights won for the seventh time in eight games and moved into a third-place tie with San Jose in the Pacific Division with 33 points. The Blackhawks, meanwhile, dropped their sixth straight and have been outscored 30-17 during the skid.

After allowing the Blackhawks to score three consecutive goals for a 3-2 lead in the third, the defending Western Conference champions responded. Marchessault fired a shot past goalie Corey Crawford to tie the game, and 12 seconds later it was Tuch punching one in to put Vegas back in front.

Reilly Smith and Deryk Engelland also scored for the Golden Knights. Marc-Andre Fleury stopped 32 shots. □

Flames' Ryan Lomberg suspended for a game by NHL

CALGARY, Alberta (AP) — Calgary Flames forward Ryan Lomberg has been suspended for a game and coach Bill Peters fined \$10,000 by the NHL for a confrontation at the end of a game with the Minnesota Wild. Lomberg went after Matt Dumba when the Wild defenseman steamrolled Flames center Mikael Backlund in the final minute of Calgary's 2-0 victory Thursday night. Instigating in the final five minutes of the game resulted in Lomberg's automatic suspension and Peters' fine. The NHL also said Friday that Flames captain Mark Giordano is to have a hearing for kneeing Wild captain Mikko Koivu in the third period. Giordano was assessed a tripping penalty.

Henry runs into NFL record book as Titans rout Jaguars 30-9

By TERESA M. WALKER

AP Pro Football Writer

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) —

Under center at the 1-yard line, Titans quarterback Marcus Mariota checked out of a quarterback sneak, and Derrick Henry did the rest — as much with his arms as his legs.

The 6-foot-3, 247-pound Henry sped and stiff-armed his way to a record-tying 99-yard touchdown run, and Tennessee routed the Jacksonville Jaguars 30-9 on Thursday night to stay in the playoff chase.

Henry matched Tony Dorsett's 99-yarder on Jan. 3, 1983, for Dallas against Minnesota for the longest TD run in NFL history. Henry ran to his left and went up the sideline, stiff-arming cornerback A.J. Bouye, then rookie linebacker Leon Jacobs twice and finally shoving linebacker Myles Jack to finish off the second of his four TDs.

"Once I got in the open field on that 99-yard run, it was going to take all of them," Henry said. "I defi-



Tennessee Titans running back Derrick Henry (22) runs for a touchdown against Jacksonville Jaguars cornerback Jalen Ramsey (20) during the second half of an NFL football game, Thursday, Dec. 6, 2018, in Nashville, Tenn.

Associated Press

nately wasn't going to go down easy, so I definitely wanted to use my stiff-arm to my advantage, and it worked."

The Titans talked before the possession about going 99 yards, so left tackle Taylor Lewan was a bit surprised

to hear the call for a quarterback sneak.

"I was like, 'That ain't going to get us 99 yards, boys,'" Lewan said. "But it was checked, so it was cool."

The 2015 Heisman Trophy winner celebrated by striking the Heisman pose not once, but twice. Dorsett didn't keep the ball from his run, but Henry said he'd definitely keep his.

"He's a legend," Henry said of his fellow Heisman winner. "It's cool to be in that company with Tony Dorsett."

Henry set a franchise record with 238 yards on 16 carries, topping the previous mark of 228 yards set by Chris Johnson in 2009 against, yes, the Jaguars. Johnson called Henry's 99-yarder "amazing" and congratulated Henry on the team record.

Henry tied Lorenzo White and Hall of Fame running back Earl Campbell for most rushing TDs in a single game in franchise history. Henry also became the first player in the NFL with four rushing TDs in a game since Jonas Gray of the Patriots in Week 11 in 2014.

Titans coach Mike Vrabel called Henry's night "very impressive."

"He just ran out of guys to stiff-arm," Vrabel said.

With the rout and second win in a row, the Titans (7-

6) stayed in AFC playoff contention with their fourth straight victory over their oldest division rival. They've won six of their last seven against Jacksonville.

The Jaguars (4-9) have lost eight of their last nine, and coach Doug Marrone said he was "heavily disappointed."

"Obviously, we had a difficult time on first, second and third (downs), and sometimes in the fourth tackling (Henry)," Jaguars coach Doug Marrone said. "He had, obviously, a career night."

Mariota, wearing black tape on the back of his right hand, threw for 162 yards. The Titans outgained the Jaguars 426-255, and they also had four sacks. Jacksonville came in with the league's fifth-best scoring defense after shutting out Andrew Luck for the first time in the NFL. But Jacksonville has been susceptible against the run, ranked 16th by giving up 108.4 yards. Henry nearly matched that on his record-tying run.

"For the rest of his life, I'll be on his highlights," Jaguars defensive end Calais Campbell said about Henry.

The record-tying TD capped a huge swing over two plays.

Titans rookie Cameron Bat-

son muffed the punt at the Titans 7 before recovering at the 1 and being tackled in the end zone for a safety. The Jaguars took the ensuing free kick and drove downfield, where they picked up a fourth-and-1 at the Titans 5. Then the Titans stopped the Jaguars on the next four plays, the last with rookie linebacker Rashaan Evans tripping up Leonard Fournette.

On the very next play, Henry started toward the middle before turning left for a TD run where he simply couldn't be stopped. Henry had 129 yards on six carries with two TDs by halftime to become the Titans' first 100-yard rusher this season. Before his night ended, he added TD runs of 16 and 54 yards.

HENRY'S RUNS

The Titans running back has three TDs of 70 yards or more rushing since 2017, the most in the NFL. Fournette, who has two such TDs, is the only other player with more than one in that span. According to the NFL, no player in the Super Bowl era had rushed for 200 or more yards and four or more TDs on 20 or fewer carries.

INJURIES

Lewan hurt his left arm or shoulder midway through the third quarter. When he got up, he yelled at the Jaguars' sideline before going to the medical tent, but he returned. Titans tight end Jonnu Smith hurt a knee on Henry's 99-yard TD run. He was down on the field for a few minutes before being helped off the field and straight to the locker room. He did not return. Receiver Tajae Sharpe hurt an ankle, and right tackle Jack Conklin hurt a knee did not return. Jacobs hurt a quadriceps muscle and did not return. Jaguars defensive tackle Marcell Dareus left with an illness.

UP NEXT

Jaguars: Host Washington in Jacksonville's home finale.

Titans: Visit Giants on Dec. 16. □

CAR CRASH

Continued from Page 17

Valbuena, an 11-year major league veteran, hit .199 with nine homers and 33 RBIs in 96 games this year for the Los Angeles Angels, who released him on Aug. 7.

"I will miss Luis' banter, smile, genuine love for his teammates, and, of course, the bat flips," Astros manager AJ Hinch said in a statement. "He was a beloved person whether he was on our team or across the field." Valbuena hit .226 with 114 home runs over 11 big league seasons with the Angels, Seattle, Cleveland, the Chicago Cubs and Houston.

"Luis was always smiling and was one of the happiest players in baseball," Astros general manager Jeff Luhnow said in a statement. "He provided joy to his teammates and our fans. He helped our franchise turn a corner in 2015 and provided many cherished memories."

Castillo played five seasons with Pittsburgh, San Francisco and Houston. He had a .254 average with 39 home runs.

Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro said in a tweet that "I join in the mourning that has overwhelmed the Venezuelan baseball family and all of its fans."

Baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred issued a statement calling it "a very sad day for our sport." "It is clear by all the stories today that they loved baseball and made an impact on their teammates and the Clubs they represented," he said, expressing "my deepest condolences to their families, friends and fans, particularly those in their native Venezuela."

The Venezuelan Professional Baseball League announced that all three scheduled games Friday were cancelled and it said flags will fly at half-staff in all stadiums for three days. □

Heisman Trophy: Stock soared for 1st-time starting QBs

By RALPH D. RUSSO
AP College Football Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Tua Tagovailoa rolled across the floor of the New York Stock Exchange on a black scooter with a little Alabama sticker on the front, his sprained left ankle in a gray plastic boot, safely propped up as he pushed off with his right foot.

The Crimson Tide quarterback and fellow Heisman Trophy finalists Kyler Murray of Oklahoma and Dwayne Haskins of Ohio State were on Wall Street on Friday to ring the closing bell on a day the Dow Jones Industrial Average closed down 558 points.

Stock for the three first-year starters has been soaring this season. A year ago they were second on their team's depth chart. On Saturday, one of them will win the Heisman Trophy.

Tagovailoa picked up where he left off in the second half of last season's national championship game victory against Georgia to lead the top-ranked Crimson Tide back to the playoff as a sophomore.

Haskins, a third-year sophomore, stepped in after the departure of a four-year starter and smashed Ohio State and Big Ten passing records.

Murray, a fourth-year junior, replaced last season's Heisman winner and had an even better season than his predecessor. Murray waited the longest to finally



Heisman Trophy finalists, from left, Dwayne Haskins, from Ohio State, Kyler Murray, of Oklahoma, and Tua Tagovailoa, from Alabama, pose with the Heisman Trophy at the New York Stock Exchange, Friday, Dec. 7, 2018, in New York.

Associated Press

take over a team, transferring from Texas A&M after a rocky freshman season, taking a redshirt year to satisfy NCAA transfer rules and then backing up Baker Mayfield in 2017.

"I think sitting down and watching is kind of important," Murray said. "I know Dwayne got to sit and watch. Tua obviously got to sit and watch. I think it just helps you with your growth and maturing on and off the field. I think that's a big part."

For the 16th time in the last 19 years, a quarterback will

win college football's most coveted individual award and that should not be a surprise this season. This has been the year of the quarterback, with FBS records for completion percentage, yards per pass and yards passing per game all within range as bowl season arrives. For the first time since 2008, when Oklahoma's Sam Bradford, Texas' Colt McCoy and Florida's Tim Tebow were the Heisman finalists, only quarterbacks were invited to New York for the trophy presentation.

That season, the Heisman finalists combined to pass for 9,726 yards and 100 touchdowns, completing 70.9 percent of their passes at 9.1 yards per attempt. This season's finalists, each still with at least one more game, have passed for 11,986 yards and 124 touchdowns, completing 69.7 percent of their passes at 10.6 yards per attempt. There is also a good chance that for just the second time in the 83-year history of the Heisman, the top-five vote-getters will be quarterbacks, too. West Virginia's Will Grier and Washington State's Gardner Minshew II were the other contenders, but neither drew enough support to earn a trip to New York. In 2001, when Nebraska's Eric Crouch won the Heisman, the top six in the voting were quarterbacks.

During a 30-minute interview session with reporters at the Stock Exchange, Tagovailoa was asked a lot about his health. He sprained his ankle in the Southeastern Conference championship game last week and said he expects to be fine for the playoff, when No. 1 Alabama faces No. 4 Oklahoma and Murray in the Orange Bowl on Dec. 29. Alabama trainer Jeff Allen is traveling with Tagovailoa on the awards circuit this week.

"Life throws problems at you sometime and it's how you deal with it," Tagovailoa

said. "Just trying to get better." Murray fielded numerous questions about his future in baseball. He was a first-round draft pick by the Oakland Athletics in June and has already signed \$4.66 million contract. This will be his one and only season as a college starting quarterback.

"My future's already kind of been decided as of right now," Murray said. Asked if he could see himself trying to play both sports, Murray said: "I would love to do be able to do both if that was possible. I don't know how possible that is."

The question Haskins will face is whether to return to college for another season or enter the NFL draft. He could be a first-round pick.

"After the bowl game I'll sit down with my family and talk about it," Haskins said.

The sixth-ranked Buckeyes face No. 9 Washington in the Rose Bowl on Jan. 1 in what will be coach Urban Meyer's last game before retirement.

Tagovailoa spent most of the season as the Heisman front-runner, but Murray kept bailing out Oklahoma's faulty defense and gaining ground in the race. It seems Murray might have taken the lead last weekend, when Tagovailoa threw two interceptions against Georgia and could not finish the game.

"If I win it that's awesome," Tagovailoa said. "If not, it's not the end of the world." □

German skier could lose 1st win for getting extra oxygen

By GRAHAM DUNBAR
AP Sports Writer
ST. MORITZ, Switzerland (AP) — Days after getting his first career World Cup win, Stefan Luitz could be disqualified for breaking skiing's doping rules by using an oxygen mask.

The International Ski Federation said Friday it is investigating an incident that occurred last Sunday in Beaver Creek, Colorado.

Racing in the giant slalom started at an altitude of 10,340 feet (3,152 meters) and the 26-year-old Ger-



Germany's Stefan Luitz celebrates after a first place finish in a Men's World Cup giant slalom skiing race Sunday, Dec. 2, 2018, in Beaver Creek, Colo.

Associated Press

man won by retaining his first-run lead. The victory ended runner-up Marcel Hirscher's five-race winning streak in the event.

Hirscher, the Olympic champion in giant slalom, could yet be awarded his 60th World Cup race win. FIS anti-doping rules state oxygen tanks cannot be brought to race venues, and "competition results achieved after the use of the equipment shall be automatically disqualified."

The World Anti-Doping Agency allows "supple-

mental oxygen administered by inhalation, but not intravenously," though notes that sports bodies could choose to prohibit it. "Athletes must check the rules that apply to supplemental oxygen use with the sporting authorities governing the events they compete in," WADA guidelines state.

Germany team director Wolfgang Maier acknowledged to the DPA agency that the team made a mistake but had not cheated. Luitz will be eligible to race

in Saturday's giant slalom in Val d'Isere, France, pending the investigation, FIS said.

The incident could potentially add to Luitz's reputation as an unlucky skier.

At the 2014 Sochi Olympics, he was poised for the second-fastest time in the first run of the giant slalom. He then hooked a ski around the simple final gate and fell over the finish line as the ski flew away from his boot. He was disqualified for straddling the gate. □

Wilder sees missed opportunity in first viewing of Fury draw

By BRIAN MAHONEY

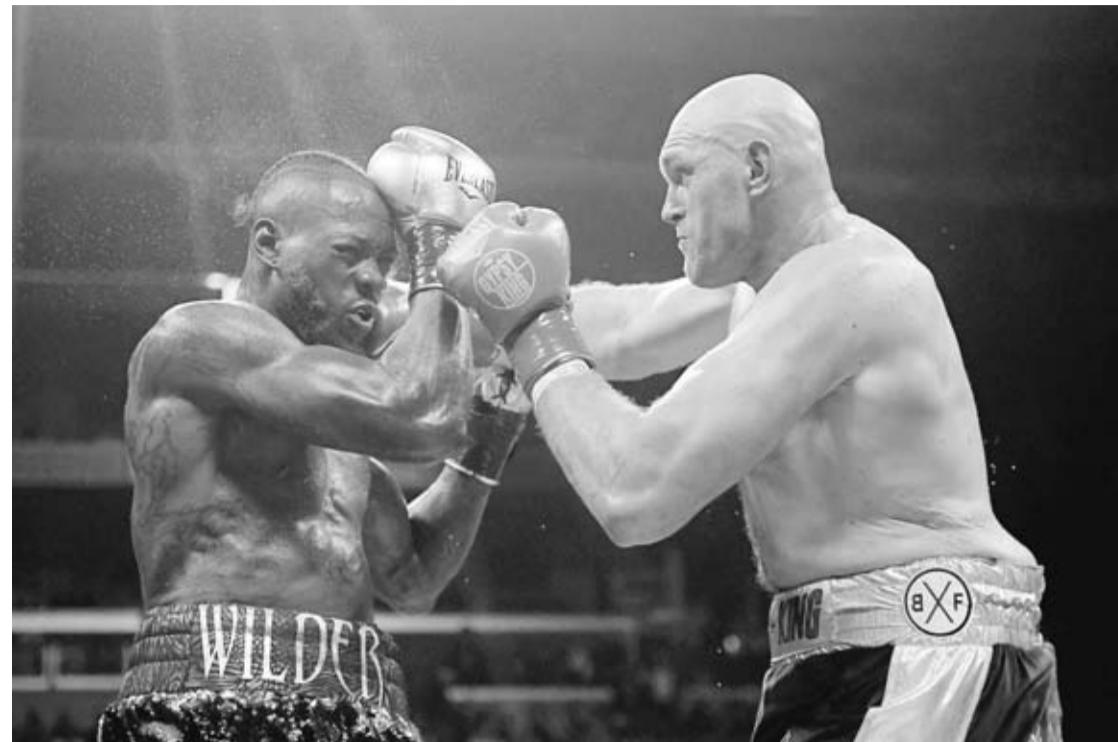
AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Deontay Wilder fired his right hand out from his body, demonstrating the way he should have punched Tyson Fury. He was frustrated with the referee. Disappointed in Floyd Mayweather Jr. Angry with Showtime's scorer. Mostly, Wilder was mad at himself.

Five days later, the WBC heavyweight champion was still bothered by the way he fought in his draw with Fury on Saturday night in Los Angeles.

"Fury was everything I expected him to be. It's not what Fury did, it's what I didn't do," Wilder said Thursday. "You seen the best of Fury, you didn't see the best of me."

"I wanted to end the show with a devastating knock-out and I got too excited." Wilder (40-0-1) watched the full fight for the first time during a lunch that was used to provide footage for an all-access look at the fight that will run Saturday after Showtime airs the replay. He was still amazed that Fury got up from a powerful combina-



In this Dec. 1, 2018, file photo, Tyson Fury, right, of England, connects with Deontay Wilder during a WBC heavyweight championship boxing match in Los Angeles. Wilder is still frustrated by the way he fought in his draw with Fury.

tion that sent him flat on his back in the 12th round, but believed Fury (27-0-1) benefited from a break from referee Jack Reiss.

"Look at him! Niiiiine," Wilder said, imitating what he felt was a dramatically long count from Reiss to allow Fury to get up and finish the fight.

Still, Wilder believed the knockdown, his second

of the fight, had allowed him to clinch the victory. He said he didn't regret not trying harder to finish Fury afterward, because he thought the win was secured.

"If it was close, that knock-down, I feel like it put me on top," Wilder said.

Only one of the judges agreed, with one scoring the bout for Fury and an-

other having it 113-113. That was much closer than Showtime scorer Steve Farhood, who gave only one of the first eight rounds to Wilder on his card that fans watching the fight could see after each round. "Someone has got to explain to me why this is supposedly a Tyson Fury round," promoter Lou DiBella said after watching the end of

one of those early rounds. Mayweather was even harsher to the champion, giving him none of the first five rounds when he was interviewed in the arena between rounds. Wilder said he had no relationship with Mayweather but implied the retired former champion was insecure any time there was too much attention on another American fighter.

Wilder agreed it was a close, tough fight to score, but only because he allowed it to be. Headlining a pay-per-view for the first time on perhaps the biggest night in years for American heavyweight boxing, Wilder wanted to deliver something spectacular and the moment got to him.

"I abandoned the whole game plan," Wilder said. "That was a mistake on my behalf. Like I said, I just wanted to get in there and just knock him out. I mean I wanted to end the show in a devastating way. That was the whole thing going through my mind. I couldn't clear it out of my mind for some reason. I couldn't. □

Mayweather says he will hold exhibition with Japanese star

By TIM DAHLBERG

AP Boxing Writer

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Floyd Mayweather says he and Japanese kickboxing star Tenshin Nasukawa will meet after all — but only in a nine-minute New Year's Eve exhibition.

Mayweather said the match in Tokyo would be for entertainment purposes only, with no judges, no official record — and no kicking.

"I'm in the entertainment business. That's what I go out there to do," Mayweather said Thursday at his Las Vegas gym. "I love to do this. I'm working out to put on a show for three rounds."

Nasukawa joined Mayweather at his gym to announce the exhibition,

which will be boxing only and take place at Saitama Super Arena in suburban Tokyo on Dec. 31.

It was the second announcement for the event, which was promoted as an actual fight when announced last month, though the rules were unclear. Mayweather appeared at a press conference in Tokyo, where he talked about the challenge of taking on a young kickboxing champion.

A few days later, Mayweather issued a statement after returning to the U.S. that he was "blindsided" by Japanese officials and never intended to have an actual fight with Nasukawa.

"First and foremost, I want it to be clear that I, Floyd Mayweather, never agreed to

an official bout with Tenshin Nasukawa," Mayweather said, going on to describe himself as a retired boxer who earned money making appearances and putting on exhibitions for what he said were large sums of money.

Nobuyuki Sakakibara, the head of Rizin Fighting Federation, which is putting on the three-round exhibition, told reporters in Japan last month that negotiations were ongoing to stage the event despite the 41-year-old Mayweather's apparent reluctance. He said at the time that spectators would see more than mere "casual sparring" and that the 20-year-old Nasukawa would have the opportunity to knock Mayweather out despite the fight being



Floyd Mayweather Jr., left, poses with kickboxer Tenshin Nasukawa, of Japan, during a news conference at the Mayweather Boxing Club in Las Vegas, Thursday, Dec. 6, 2018.

billed as an exhibition. "We don't want people to think this is some half-hearted playing around," Sakakibara said.

And while Mayweather talked about providing some entertainment in the three-round event, Nasukawa sounded a bit more serious about it.

"I'm going to use my weap-

ons against him," he said through an interpreter. Mayweather earlier also announced plans to fight Manny Pacquiao in December. That fight never went past the talking stage, and Mayweather claimed once again last month that he was retired and has no intention of having an actual fight again. □

Google's robotic spinoff launches ride-hailing service

By MICHAEL LIEDTKE

AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Google's self-driving car spinoff is finally ready to try to profit from its nearly decade-old technology.

Waymo is introducing a small-scale ride-hailing service in the Phoenix area that will include a human behind the wheel in case the robotic vehicles malfunction.

The service debuting Wednesday marks a significant milestone for Waymo, a company that began as a secretive project within Google in 2009. Since then, its cars have robotically logged more than 10 million miles on public roads in 25 cities in California, Arizona, Washington, Michigan and Georgia while getting into only a few accidents — mostly fender benders.

The company is initially operating the new service cautiously, underscoring the challenges still facing its autonomous vehicles as they navigate around vehicles with human drivers that don't always follow the same rules as robots.

The service, dubbed Waymo One, at first will only be available to a couple hundred riders, all of whom had already been participating in a free pilot program that began in April 2017. It will be confined to a roughly 100-square-mile



This undated photo provided by Waymo shows its self-driving minivan. Google's self-driving car spinoff is finally ready to try to profit from its nearly decade-old technology.

Associated Press

area in and around Phoenix, including the neighboring cities of Chandler, Tempe, Mesa, and Gilbert. Although Waymo has been driving passengers without any humans behind the wheel in its free pilot program, it decided to be less daring with the new commercial service.

"Self-driving technology is new to many, so we're proceeding carefully with the comfort and convenience of our riders in mind," Waymo CEO John Krafcik wrote in Wednesday blog post heralding the arrival of the

new service. The ride-hailing service is launching in the same area where a car using robotic technology from ride-hailing service Uber hit and killed a pedestrian crossing a darkened street in Tempe, Arizona seven months ago. That fatal collision attracted worldwide attention that cast a pall over the entire self-driving car industry as more people began to publicly question the safety of the vehicles. "I suspect the Uber fatality has caused Waymo to slow down its pace a bit" and

use human safety drivers in its ride-hailing service," said Navigant Research analyst Sam Abuelsamid. "If people keep dying, there will be a bigger backlash against these vehicles."

The Uber robotic car had a human safety driver behind the wheel, but that wasn't enough to prevent its lethal accident in March.

Waymo's self-driving vehicles are still susceptible to glitches, as an Associated Press reporter experienced during a mid-October ride in an autonomous minivan alongside Krafcik near

company's Mountain View, California, headquarters.

The minivan performed smoothly, even stopping for a jaywalker, before abruptly pulling to the right side of the road. Ahead was a left-turning FedEx delivery truck. In a digital message to the two human backup drivers, the van said it "detected an issue" and it would connect to a rider support agent. Rider support didn't respond due to what the company blamed on a dead spot in cellular phone coverage. The human drivers switched to manual mode and returned to Waymo headquarters.

At that time, Krafcik conceded to the AP that Waymo's self-driving vehicles were still encountering occasional problems negotiating left-hand turns at complicated intersections.

"I think the things that humans have challenges with, we're challenged with as well," Krafcik said. "So sometimes unprotected lefts are super challenging for a human, sometimes they're super challenging for us."

Waymo eventually plans to open its new ride-hailing app to all comers in the Phoenix area, although it won't say when. It also wants to expand its service to other cities, but isn't saying where. □

EKG, other heart health features come to Apple Watch

NEW YORK (AP) — Apple Watch is now fulfilling its promise to let people take EKGs of their heart and notify them of any irregular heartbeat.

Apple announced the heart features in September, but didn't make them available until Thursday. The new features have been given clearance by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and are for U.S. customers only. The watch can intermittently check the wearer's heart rhythm in the background and send a notification if it detects irregular heart rhythm. That can point to



In this Sept. 12, 2018, file photo, Jeff Williams, Apple's chief operating officer, speaks about the Apple Watch Series 4 at the Steve Jobs Theater during an event to announce new Apple products in Cupertino, Calif.

Associated Press

atrial fibrillation, a condition that can increase the risk of stroke and other complications. Apple says the watch will notify users if it detects an irregular rhythm on five checks over at least 65 minutes.

When symptoms appear, users can also take an EKG, or electrocardiogram, and share that with doctors. This feature is available for the latest, Series 4 version of the watch. The app, called ECG, comes as part of a free software update for the watch.

The irregular heart notification is available for older models, too, starting with

the "Series 1" model in 2016. It doesn't work with the original, 2015 model.

Apple is adding medical features to make the watch feel more useful to people. A fall detection feature launched in September. It claims to be able to tell the difference between a trip and a fall — and when the latter occurs, it will suggest calling 911 (or the equivalent outside the U.S.). If it receives no response within a minute, the watch will automatically place an emergency call and message friends and family designated as emergency contacts. □

Invest in the company or retirement? More owners opt to save

By JOYCE M. ROSENBERG

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — In John Holloway's early years as an entrepreneur, saving for his own future wasn't a priority. "I invested a lot of money into one of my first businesses and came out break even at best. I am kicking myself for not setting some of that money aside for retirement," says Holloway, co-owner of NoExam.com, a life insurance brokerage based in Roswell, Georgia. These days, when his company's cash flow and profits are strong enough, he takes money out of the business and invests in a retirement account.

"I am trying to diversify — having all of my eggs in one basket is stressful," Holloway says.

Saving for retirement hasn't been a priority for many small business owners over the years. They've hoped to build their businesses, sell at a huge profit and have a comfortable retirement. While they've taken profits out for homes and college tuition, it was more important to reinvest earnings into the company rather than save for retirement. But attitudes about saving may be evolving after the financial devastation of the Great Recession, when tens of thousands of businesses failed.



In this Monday, Dec. 3, 2018, photo, Shamila Nduri, who owns Dalasini, an upscale jewelry company, poses in her Minneapolis apartment with some of her jewelry.

Associated Press

In a survey by insurer Nationwide released in October, 53 percent of younger business owners — those born in the 1980s and '90s — said having a workplace savings plan was important for their retirement. Fewer baby boomers, 39 percent, felt it was important. Older surveys show how boomers favored their companies over saving — the Small Business Administration said in 2006 that only about a third of owners had Individual Retirement Accounts and 18 percent had a

401(k). When Ron Lieback started his digital marketing business, he began setting aside 10 percent of his own salary. Profits from the company, ContentMender, are reinvested into new technology, but Lieback wants to be personally prepared for the what-ifs.

"Something could crash and our business could fail. You always have to have that in the back of your head, so you need that nest egg," says Lieback, whose company is based

in Mountain Top, Pennsylvania. To help his company be more profitable, and therefore help himself save, Lieback uses freelancers for some of ContentMender's work.

Owners who expect companies to fund their retirement are optimistic but may be overlooking the fact that they and the business are vulnerable to potential calamities, says David O'Brien, a financial adviser with Evolution Advisors in Midlothian, Virginia. For example, an owner

who's the company's key employee can be sidelined by a serious illness, hurting the value of the business. Or if patents are infringed and once-exclusive products are now sold by competitors, a company's value can plunge.

Moreover, O'Brien says, when it's time to sell, buyers might not be willing to pay what the owner hopes for. "You need to shore up your reserves in case you don't get the sales price of your business that you want," he says.

Many owners couldn't get their asking prices during the Great Recession and its aftermath. Sales of companies plunged and didn't recover until 2013; they've soared since as owners finally got the deals they wanted.

However, many startups might not exist if owners hadn't plowed every possible cent into the business. "We invested everything we made back into the business to get it past the tipping point of financial stability," says David Gafford, who owns Fusion Creative, a digital marketing firm and a credit card processor, both in Indianapolis. "Then we made the turn from putting everything back into the business to focusing on our personal and family goals as well." □

Marlboro maker places \$2.4 billion bet on marijuana

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — One of the world's biggest tobacco

co companies is diving into the cannabis market with a \$2.4 billion buy-in.



In this July 17, 2015, file photo, store manager Stephanie Hunt poses for photos with a pack of Marlboro cigarettes, an Altria brand, at a Smoker Friendly shop in Pittsburgh.

Associated Press

Marlboro maker Altria Group Inc. is taking a 45 percent stake in Cronos Group, the Canadian medical and recreational marijuana provider said Friday.

Altria will pay another \$1.4 billion for warrants that if exercised, would give the Altria a 55 percent ownership stake in the Toronto company.

That would mean Altria's investment would be in the same league as the \$4 billion spent earlier this year by Constellation Brands to acquire shares of Canopy Growth Corp., another Canadian pot producer.

The August investment

by Constellation, which makes Corona and other beverages, was the largest to date by a major U.S. corporation in the cannabis market.

Whatever hesitation larger corporations in the U.S. had about entering the cannabis market appears to be fading if there is a financial justification.

Altria's huge investment lit up shares of cannabis companies that have begun to set up shop in Canada, where recreational use was legalized this year. Shares of Cronos Group Inc. jumped 31 percent and neared an all-time high at the opening bell

Friday.

Rapid growth in the cannabis market is expected to continue as legalization expands in the U.S. and social norms change. On Tuesday, ultra-conservative Utah became the latest state to legalize marijuana use for medical purposes.

Consumers are expected to spend \$57 billion per year worldwide on legal cannabis by 2027, according to Arcview Market Research, a cannabis-focused investment firm. In North America, that spending is expected to grow from \$9.2 billion in 2017 to \$47.3 billion in 2027. □

Mutts



6 Chix



Blondie



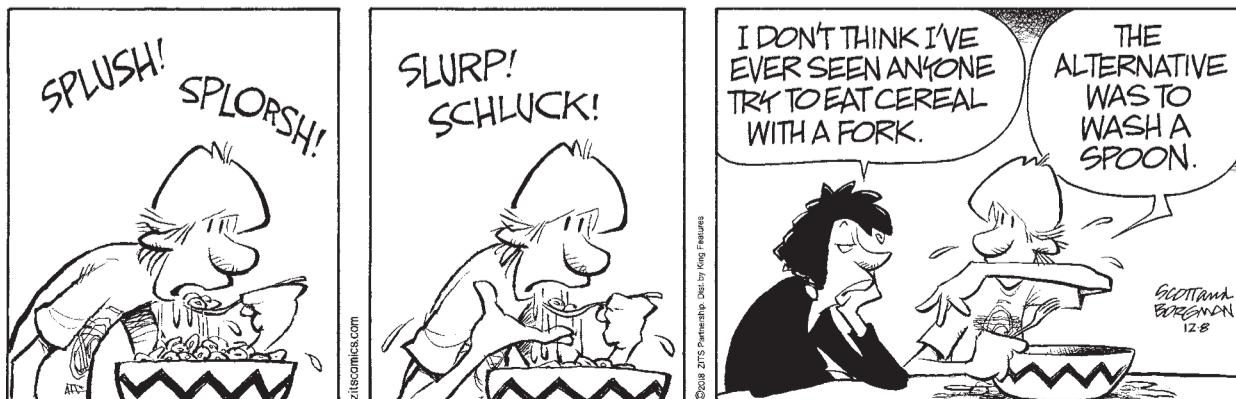
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

7	5				6		2
6		9		4		1	
	7	6		2	9		
			8				
4	3			5	2		
		5		1			
2			8				
5	6			7	4		

Difficulty Level ★★★★

12/08

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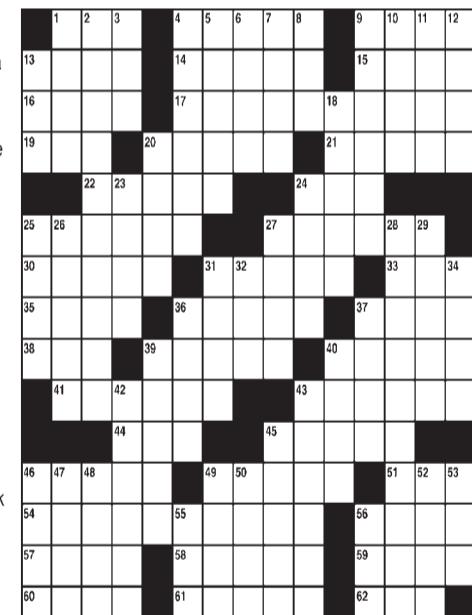
3	5	4	1	2	7	8	6	9
2	1	8	6	9	4	7	5	3
7	9	6	5	3	8	4	1	2
8	4	3	7	1	9	5	2	6
1	6	7	2	4	5	3	9	8
5	2	9	3	8	6	1	7	4
6	8	2	4	5	1	9	3	7
4	3	5	9	7	2	6	8	1
9	7	1	8	6	3	2	4	5

Yesterday's puzzle answer

12/8/18

ACROSS

- 1 Weather forecast
- 4 ___ crow flies; in a straight line
- 9 ___-boiled; like a 3-minute egg
- 13 Prickly seed case
- 14 Overindulge, as a child
- 15 Untainted
- 16 Now ___ me down to sleep..."
- 17 Not likely to stumble
- 19 ___ Rather
- 20 Takes on employees
- 21 Expenses
- 22 Shininess
- 24 File drawer, perhaps
- 25 Grapefruit-flavored soft drink
- 27 Rump ___; cuts of beef
- 30 Go ___ a limb
- 31 Hold sway
- 33 Stylish; trendy
- 35 Containing little fat
- 36 Loses hair
- 37 Maire d's offering
- 38 Final bill
- 39 Comedian Kovacs
- 40 Toils
- 41 ___ de corps; group morale
- 43 Break in a kid's school day
- 44 Street, to a Frenchman
- 45 Sri ___
- 46 Undress
- 49 Publicity ___; attention-seeking act
- 51 Waitress at Mel's Diner
- 54 Rehearsing
- 56 Worry; fret
- 57 Pig's remark
- 58 Hope or Jessica
- 59 ___ over; faint
- 60 Clothing
- 61 Go into
- 62 Peeve
- 64 Undress
- 65 Publicity ___; attention-seeking act
- 66 Toil
- 67 ___ de corps; group morale
- 68 Break in a kid's school day
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- 104 ___ over; faint
- 105 Clothing
- 106 Go into
- 107 Peeve
- 108 Toil
- 109 ___ de corps; group morale
- 110 Break in a kid's school day
- 111 Street, to a Frenchman
- 112 Sri ___



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

12/8/18

Friday's Puzzle Solved

B	O	W	A	T	O	W	N	A	R	C	H
B	A	R	S	R	O	M	E	K	A	L	E
C	R	A	M	T	W	I	S	T	I	R	O
S	P	A	G	H	E	T	T	I	M	E	D
S	O	U	R	F	I	B					
R	A	S	H	E	P	O	T	M	E	S	
A	S	H	E	R	E	P	I	T	O	M	E
A	B	E	S	R	A	F	R	E	S	E	L
B	A	D	J	E	L	L	Y	S	A	T	
I	N	E	D	I	B	L	E	P	T	E	R
A	G	O	T	R	A	P					
S	P	A	N	U	N	F	A	I	L		
T	A	X	I	N	O	S	E	N	A		
A	P	E	S	D	A	R	T	S	G		
B	A	S	H	E	S	T			R		

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12/8/18

- 39 Burst forth
- 40 ___ away; left
- 42 Pierces slightly with a pin
- 43 Forest officer
- 45 Sudden forward rush
- 46 Catch sight of
- 47 The Bee Gees, for one
- 48 ___ out; peeled
- 49 CT or MRI
- 50 Slight coloring
- 52 Onion's cousin
- 53 Wise as an ___
- 55 Suffix for project or infant
- 56 ___ mask; winter knit face protector

Christmas turkey, fruitcake rocketing toward space station

By MARCIA DUNN

Associated Press

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)

— Christmas turkey rocketed toward the International Space Station on Wednesday, along with cranberry sauce, candied yams and the obligatory fruitcake.

The SpaceX booster missed its landing zone on the ground after liftoff, however, and ended up in the sea just a couple of miles offshore.

Groans filled SpaceX Mission Control in Hawthorne, California, as live video showed the first-stage rocket booster spinning out of control, still high above Cape Canaveral. It was the company's first missed ground landing, although it has overshot floating barges plenty of times in the past, a tougher feat to pull off.

A SpaceX commentator called it a "bummer," but noted it was secondary to the Falcon 9 rocket's main mission of getting the Dragon capsule to orbit.

SpaceX chief Elon Musk said the booster appeared to be undamaged. The hydraulic pump for the landing fins apparently stalled, but the engines stabilized the approximately 160-foot-tall booster just in time, allowing for "an intact landing in water!" Musk noted via Twitter. "Ships en route to rescue Falcon," he tweeted.



The first stage booster from a Falcon 9 rocket experiences a control problem during its descent, landing in the Atlantic Ocean just east of the launch site instead of a landing zone at the Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Cape Canaveral, Fla., Wednesday, Dec. 5, 2018.

Associated Press

SpaceX's 12 previous ground landings — dating back to 2015 — all were successful. Altogether, the company has recovered 32 boosters following liftoff — 33 once this one is towed back, said Hans Koenigsmann, a SpaceX vice president. He did not know if it could be reused.

Koenigsmann said the booster deliberately avoided land after sensing a problem, a built-in safety feature, and even managed to touch down upright in the Atlantic, atop its landing legs.

"Public safety was well protected here," he told reporters.

The disappointment was offset by the successful flight of the Dragon capsule and its 5,600 pounds

(2,500 kilograms) of cargo. It should reach the space station Saturday.

"What a great day for a launch," said Kennedy Space Center director Bob Cabana. Twenty years ago this week, Cabana commanded the shuttle mission that carried up the first U.S. part of the space station. □



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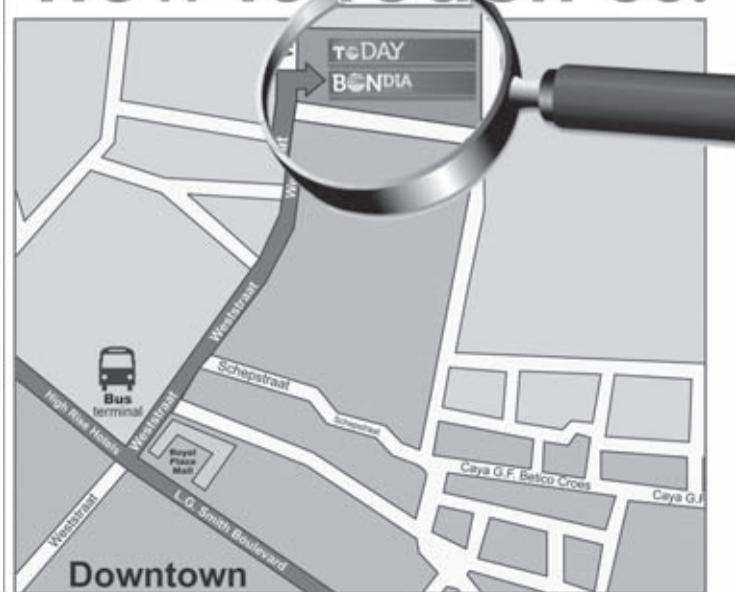
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Violence Against Women



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PLATINUM Season
2B Oceanfront \$27k
Oceanside \$16k
Oceanview \$15k
3BEDRM \$26k
*WK. 51 OV \$39k
*WK 52 OV \$46k
* Weeks 7 and 14-all views

GOLD Season

2B Oceanfront \$14k
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New study explains creation of deadly California 'firenado'

REDDING, Calif. (AP) — A rare fire tornado that raged during this summer's deadly Carr Fire in Northern California was created by a combination of scorching weather, erratic winds and an ice-topped cloud that towered miles into the atmosphere, according to a study announced Wednesday.

The churning funnel of smoke and flame killed a firefighter as it exploded in what already was a vast and devastating wildfire in July on the edge of Redding, about 250 miles (400 kilometers) north of San Francisco.

The wildfire claimed eight lives and destroyed more than 1,000 homes before it was contained on Aug. 30. The study in the Geophysical Research Letters journal used satellite and radar data to suggest how a monstrous "firenado" the size of three football fields developed on July 26.

It said the firenado was formed in much the same way as a regular tornado, which differs from the "fire whirls" that are formed only by heat from a wildfire.

The only other document-



This July 26, 2018 file image taken from video released by Cal Fire shows a fire tornado over Lake Keswick Estates near Redding, Calif.

ed case of such a "firenado" was during the 2003 Canberra fires in Australia, according to the study. A key factor was the development of a cloud generated by the fire itself that was ice-topped and grew quickly, doubling in

length in just 15 minutes. It reached as high as 39,000 feet (7.4 miles or 11.9 kilometers), according to the study, which was published on Nov. 21.

The development of that pyrocumulonimbus cloud "helped stretch the underly-

ing column of air, concentrating the rotation near the surface" and causing tornado-strength winds that reached 143 mph, according to the study.

"This paints a clear picture of the sequence of events leading to the vortex de-

Associated Press

velopment and intensification," said Neil Lareau of the University of Nevada, Reno, who co-authored the paper.

Other factors included record high temperatures, low humidity and a "near-surface cyclonic wind shear zone," according to the study. A wind shear occurs when the wind speed or direction suddenly changes, so that the wind actually is blowing in two opposite directions.

The wind shear near the ground set up the spin that developed the fire tornado plume, Lareau said.

"These observations may help forecasters and scientists identify - and potentially warn - for future destructive fire-generated vortices," according to the study.

Lareau is an assistant professor in the Physics Department of the College of Science. The article was co-authored by Nicholas Nausler of the Storm Prediction Center in Norman, Oklahoma and John Abatzoglou from the Department of Geography at the University of Idaho in Moscow, Idaho. □

What caused ancient mass extinction? Hot ocean water blamed

**By SETH BORENSTEIN
AP Science Writer**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Scientists think they've figured out the falling dominoes that led to Earth's largest mass extinction and worry that human-caused climate change puts the planet on a vaguely similar path.

Some 250 million years ago, about 90 percent of sea life and 70 percent of land life went extinct in what is now called the

Great Dying. Scientists have long speculated that massive volcanic outbursts triggered the cataclysmic event, but how that worked was still a bit fuzzy. It wasn't the lava itself. A new study in Thursday's journal Science used complex computer simulations to plot out what happened after the volcanoes blew: It led to ocean temperatures rising by about 20 degrees (11 degrees Celsius), which then starved the seawater

of oxygen. That hot oxygen-starved water caused the mass marine die-off, especially farther from the equator.

After the volcanoes blew, the level of heat-trapping carbon dioxide soared to a level more than 12 times what it is today, said study lead author Justin Penn, an Earth sciences researcher at the University of Washington.

Water loses oxygen when it warms, much like a warm can of cola goes flat, Penn said. Scientists looked at dozens of modern species to see what happens to them in warmer, oxygen-starved water and that helped them understand the past extinction.

One of the keys in the research is that more species died off away from the equator. That's because

tropical species were more acclimated to low oxygen levels, Penn said.

While humans aren't warming the Earth anywhere close to as much as what happened naturally 250 million years ago, "this puts our future into the category of contenders for true catastrophe," said study co-author Curtis Deutsch, an Earth scientist at the University of Washington.

The ancient die-off "shows almost exactly what lies at the end of the road we're on," Deutsch said. "We're really doing the same thing to Earth's climate and oceans."

The study calculates that if heat-trapping carbon dioxide emissions continue on current levels, by the year 2300, the globe will experience 35 to 50 percent of the extinction level

seen in the Great Dying. University of Leeds paleontologist Paul Wignall said no current global warming scenario envisions 20 degrees of warming in the next few centuries, so it could be millennia away. However, even an event 10 percent as bad as the Great Dying "would be dreadful," said Wignall, who wasn't part of the study.

Other outside scientists said the study provides a scary glimpse into Earth's possible future.

"Because we are warming up the Earth at a rapid rate, results from this study could prove to be very useful in understanding" what happens to life in future oceans, University of Southern California Earth scientist David Bottjer said in an email. □

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Hart steps down as Oscars host over his past anti-gay tweets

By JAKE COYLE
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Just two days after being named host of the Academy Awards, Kevin Hart stepped down following an outcry over past homophobic tweets by the comedian. Capping a swift and dramatic fallout, Hart wrote on Twitter just after midnight Friday that he was withdrawing as Oscars host because he didn't want to be a distraction. "I sincerely apologize to the LGBTQ community for my insensitive words from my past," wrote Hart.

Hart, who is in Australia for a comedy tour, also tweeted Friday morning: "The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy. Martin Luther King, Jr."

Earlier Thursday evening, the comedian had refused to apologize for tweets that resurfaced after he was announced as Oscars host on Tuesday. In a video on Instagram, Hart said the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences gave him an ultimatum: apologize or "we're going to have to move on and find another host."

"I chose to pass on the apology," Hart said. "The reason why I passed is because I've addressed this



In this Dec. 11, 2017 file photo, Kevin Hart arrives at the Los Angeles premiere of "Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle" in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

several times."

The film academy didn't respond to messages Thursday evening.

Hart has since deleted some of the anti-gay tweets, mostly dated from 2009-2011. But they had already been screen-captured and been shared online. In 2011, he wrote in a since-deleted tweet: "Yo if my son comes home & try's 2 play with my daughters doll house I'm going 2 break it over his head & say n my voice 'stop that's gay.'"

In an earlier post Thursday, Hart wrote on Instagram

that critics should "stop being negative" about his earlier anti-gay remarks.

"I'm almost 40 years old. If you don't believe that people change, grow, evolve? I don't know what to tell you," said Hart, who added, in all-caps: "I love everybody."

Hart's attitudes about homosexuality were also a well-known part of his stand-up act. In the 2010 special "Seriously Funny," he said "one of my biggest fears is my son growing up and being gay."

"Keep in mind, I'm not ho-

mophobic, I have nothing against gay people, do what you want to do, but me, being a heterosexual male, if I can prevent my son from being gay, I will," Hart said.

GLAAD, the advocacy group for LGBTQ rights, said Thursday that it reached out to Oscars broadcaster ABC, the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences, and Hart's management to "discuss Kevin's anti-LGBTQ rhetoric and record."

Comedian and actor Billy Eichner said "a simple, au-

thentic apology showing any bit of understanding or remorse would have been so simple."

It's not the first time an Oscars host has been derailed by anti-gay remarks. Ahead of the 2012 Academy Awards, producer Brett Ratner, who had been paired with host Eddie Murphy, resigned days after using a gay slur at a film screening. Murphy soon after exited, as well.

That year, a tried-and-true Oscars veteran — Billy Crystal — jumped in to save the show, hosting for his eighth time. This time, speculation has already been rampant that few in Hollywood want the gig, for which few win glowing reviews.

The film academy moved up this year's ceremony to Feb. 24, giving producers little time to find a replacement.

At a Hollywood event Thursday night, comedian Kathy Griffin, whose career suffered last year when she posted a photo on social media that looked like a beheaded President Donald Trump, said Hart messed up, yet had empathy for the situation.

"He wrote that tweet eight years ago when gay marriage wasn't even legal yet, so we all do things. God knows in my 23 specials I've said heinously inappropriate things," she said. □

After a year full of tears, Ariana Grande comes out on top

By MESFIN FEKADU
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Ariana Grande capped off a successful year as a pop star — but a trying one as a maturing young woman — at the 13th annual Billboard Women in Music event, where she was named Woman of the Year.

The 25-year-old singer was teary-eyed at times during her acceptance speech as she reflected on her year, which included the end of her relationship with comedian-actor Pete Davidson and the death of her former boyfriend, the

rapper Mac Miller. Last year, a bombing at her concert in Manchester, England killed 22 people. "I want to say that I find it interesting that this has been one of the best years in my career and like the worst of my life," she told the audience in New York City at Pier 36 on Thursday. "I feel like a lot of people would look at someone in my position right now, I guess, like Woman of the Year, an artist that could be at her peak ... and think, 'She's really got her (stuff) together. She's really on it. She's got it all.' And I do, but as far as

my personal life goes, I really have no idea what the (expletive) I am doing."

"It's been a very conflicting one," she added. "I just want to say if you're someone out there who has no idea what this next chapter is going to bring, you're not alone in that." Grande's successful year included another No. 1 album with "Sweetener" as well as multiple hits, from "No Tears Left to Cry" to "God Is a Woman" to "Breathin." She sang "Thank U, Next" — her first No. 1 smash on Billboard's Hot 100 chart — in front of the audience



Ariana Grande attends the 13th annual Billboard Women in Music event at Pier 36 on Thursday, Dec. 6, 2018, in New York.

Associated Press

including Alicia Keys, Dua Lipa, music executives and

honorees like Cyndi Lauper and Janelle Monae. □

After a long, bumpy journey, 'Mowgli' settles in at Netflix

By LINDSEY BAHR

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — To say Andy Serkis has been through the ringer with his adaptation of Rudyard Kipling's "The Jungle Book" is a bit of an understatement. It was always going to be an ambitious project for a first time director — dark, intense and more in the spirit of Kipling's stories, with a big studio (Warner Bros.) behind it, a blockbuster budget, A-list talent to match, from Christian Bale to Cate Blanchett, and all the high-pressure stakes that go along with that.

But five years ago when he signed up to direct, Serkis didn't know that Walt Disney Studios would soon be announcing its own live-action Jungle Book, which would beat his to theaters by over two years and become a nearly billion dollar box-office sensation. And no one would have guessed that at the 11th-hour this summer, after promotions had already begun, his own studio would sell his version to Netflix.

"This wasn't the easiest ride



In this Nov. 28, 2018 photo, Andy Serkis, left, and Rohan Chand pose for a portrait at the Four Seasons Hotel in Los Angeles to promote their film "Mowgli: Legend of the Jungle," streaming on Netflix on Friday, Dec. 7.

Associated Press

for anybody," Serkis said on a recent afternoon. "It really did go through a massively long journey." Serkis was even able to direct another movie ("Breathe") and star in at least one ("War for the Planet of the Apes") during the post production for "Mowgli: Legend of the Jungle"

which debuts on the streaming service Friday. The affable Serkis, kind and soft-spoken, who made his name as a pioneering talent in motion capture performance in "The Lord of the Rings," "The Hobbit" and "The Planet of the Apes" films, is just excited people are finally going to get to

see his passion project. The Callie Kloves-written screenplay takes the Mowgli myth away from the sunny, toe-tapping Disney versions, and back to Kipling's original vision of the boy raised by wolves.

Actor Rohan Chand ("Lone Survivor") was brought on to lead the film at age 10

(he's now 14), opposite heavyweight actors like Bale, who plays Bagheera, Blanchett as Kaa, Benedict Cumberbatch as Shere Khan, Naomie Harris as Nisha and Serkis himself as Baloo.

"I actually grew up reading Rudyard Kipling short stories," Chand said. "I love Mowgli. He was almost like my hero in a way."

In order to see through Serkis's grand vision, Chand had to essentially shoot the film twice. First with the "A" talent like Bale and Cumberbatch, wearing motion capture tech on their faces and arms, and then again on location with a different set of actors mimicking the movements of the jungle animals.

"Rohan was extraordinary," Serkis said of his young star who he helped guide through some intense scenes, emotionally and physically. "He had to endure real physical pain and a lot of technical challenges which he did with great ease." □

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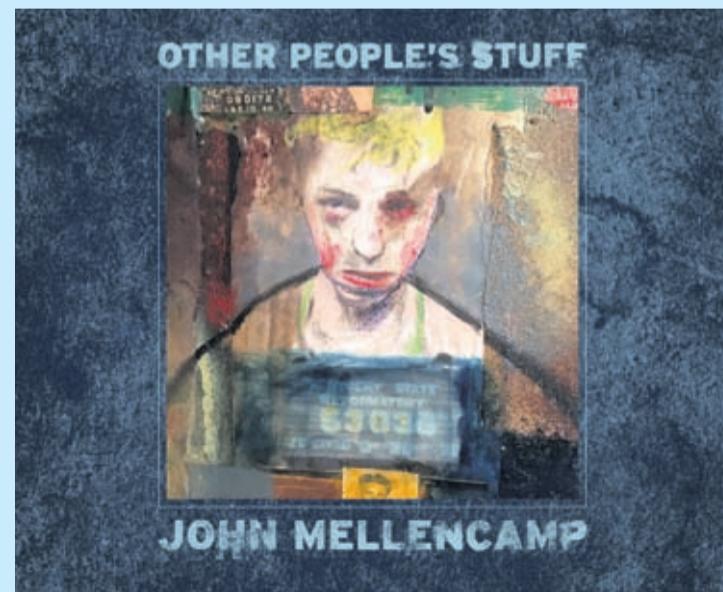
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Mellencamp puts fearless touch on American classics



This cover image released by Republic Records shows "Other People's Stuff," the latest release by John Mellencamp.

Associated Press

By SCOTT STROUD
Associated Press

John Mellencamp, "Other People's Stuff" (Republic Records)

In his youth John Mellencamp was known to be cocky. That brashness carried him to the big stage, where he became a sta-

dium-scale rocker with an adventurous spirit.

He mostly fell short of the stature attained by contemporaries named Bruce Springsteen and Tom Petty, but he sometimes took bigger risks.

Mellencamp's fearlessness is well-represented on his latest album, "Other People's Stuff," a collection of cover songs, some of them American classics, from four decades of work.

There's a version of "Keep Your Eyes on the Prize," the old civil rights anthem, which Mellencamp introduced at a White House event in 2010. Mellencamp's gentle interpretation may surprise those not expecting such soulful notes out of a white man from the heartland. □

Lamar leads Grammy noms, where women make a comeback

By MESFIN FEKADU

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The music of "Black Panther," with Kendrick Lamar in its starring role, officially owns the 2019 Grammy Awards, where women are heavily represented in the major four categories following a year where their presence was barely felt.

The Recording Academy announced Friday that Lamar is the top contender with eight nominations, including seven for his musical companion to the Marvel Studios juggernaut starring Chadwick Boseman and Michael B. Jordan. "Black Panther: The Album, Music From and Inspired By" is up for album of the year, a category where women make up five of the eight nominees. Cardi B, Kacey Musgraves, Janelle Monae, H.E.R. and Brandi Carlile also are up for the top prize, along with Drake and Post Malone.

The upcoming Grammys is the first where the academy extended its top four categories from five nominees to eight.

The "Panther" nomination would give Lamar a chance to win album of the year after losing three times. His most recent loss was in February when his critically acclaimed "DAMN" fell short to Bruno Mars' "24K Magic," though Lamar's project would go on to win a Pulitzer Prize for music two months later, making him the first non-classical or jazz artist to win the prestigious honor.

Lamar's Top 10 hit, the SZA-assisted "All the Stars," is nominated for both record and song of the year (a songwriter's award). Five other songs scored nominations in both categories, including Lady Gaga and Bradley Cooper's "Shallow" from "A Star Is Born"; Childish Gambino's "This Is America"; Drake's "God's Plan"; Zedd, Maren Morris and Grey's "The Middle"; and Carlile's "The Joke."

Ella Mai's "Boo'd Up" and Shawn Mendes' "In My Blood" earned song of the year nods, while Post Malone's "Rockstar" and Cardi



In this July 7, 2017, file photo, Kendrick Lamar performs during the Festival d'ete de Quebec in Quebec City, Canada.

Associated Press

B's "I Like It," featuring Bad Bunny and J Balvin, round out the nominees for record of the year.

Following Lamar, Drake — the year's most successful artist — earned seven nominations. Though nominated for album of the year, he was surprisingly shut out of best rap album, where his rival Pusha T earned a nomination.

Drake's frequent collaborator, producer Boi-1Da, earned six nods, as did Carlile, who also scored nominations in the American Roots category.

Cardi B, Gaga, H.E.R., Morris, Gambino, producer Sounwave and engineer Mike Bozzi scored five nominations each.

The nominees for the 2019 Grammys mark a departure from this year's show, where women were underrepresented in the top four categories. Of the eight best new artist nominees, six are women, including H.E.R., Chloe x Halle, Dua Lipa, Margo Price, Bebe Rexha and Jorja Smith. Rock band Greta Van Fleet and country singer Luke Combs also earned nominations.

Recording Academy CEO Neil Portnow was criticized earlier this year at the

Grammys when he said women need to "step up" when asked about the lack of women in the top categories, which he later acknowledged was a "poor choice of words." It forced the academy to launch a new task force focused on inclusion and diversity; Portnow also announced he would be leaving the academy in 2019.

"In any given year there could be more folks from one area or one gender or one genre or one ethnicity that are making recordings and being successful with them than in another year. So, in many ways we're just a reflection of that," Portnow said in an interview with The Associated Press. "This year clearly there were many women not only making music but making great music and making music that resonates with our peer voters in terms of excellence, and so that certainly is at the forefront."

Another milestone for women is in the non-classical producer of the year category, where songwriting extraordinaire Linda Perry earned a nomination. She's just the seventh woman ever nominated for prize and first since 2004.

"Linda represents what we hope becomes the norm, which is the elimination of gender bias in producing and engineering in our industry," Portnow said. Perry will compete with Pharrell Williams, Boi-1Da, Larry Klein and Kanye West, the only nomination he earned.

Taylor Swift, a two-time album of the year winner, also only earned one nomination — her "reputation" album is up best pop vocal album. Justin Timberlake, whose "Man of the Woods" albums flopped earlier this year, picked up a nod for "Say Something," his collaboration with Chris Stapleton.

Beyoncé and Jay-Z, billed as The Carters, as well Ariana Grande, didn't earn any of the big nominations. The Carters earned two nods in the R&B category along with best music video, while Grande picked up two nods in pop.

Artists who were completely snubbed include Carrie Underwood, Sam Smith, Migos, Kane Brown, Nicki Minaj, XXXTentacion and Juice WRLD, whose "Lucid Dreams" was one of the year's biggest hits.

Some acts scored their first

nominations ever, including Florida Georgia Line, whose megahit "Meant to Be" with Rexha is up best country duo/group performance. Camila Cabello, Malone, Mendes, Dan + Shay and DJ Mustard are also first-time nominees.

Gaga, who earned acting and music Golden Globe nominations Thursday, picked up four Grammy nominations for "Shallow," while "Joanne" is up for best pop solo performance. The soundtrack for "A Star Is Born" was released after Grammy eligibility, though "Shallow" was released in time and also earned Cooper two nominations.

Other famous faces outside of music to earn nominations include Tiffany Haddish and former U.S. president Jimmy Carter, both up for best spoken word album. Dave Chappelle, Chris Rock, Fred Armisen, Jim Gaffigan and Patton Oswalt are up for best comedy album.

Mac Miller, who died in September, earned a nomination for best rap album with "Swimming." Chris Cornell, who died last year, is up for best rock performance with "When Bad Does Good." Demi Lovato, who relapsed after six years of sobriety and was hospitalized for an overdose in July, earned a nomination for best pop duo/group performance for "Fall In Line," her duet with Christina Aguilera.

Those who earned four nominations are Musgraves, Malone, PJ Morton, Dave Cobb, Ludwig Goransson, Noah Shebib and SZA, who earned a Golden Globe nomination alongside Lamar for "All the Stars" on Thursday.

Lamar has won 12 Grammys throughout his career. Though seven of his eight nominations come from "Black Panther," he also earned a nod for co-writing Jay Rock's "Win," up for best rap song.

The 2019 Grammys will hand out awards in its 84 categories live from the Staples Center in Los Angeles on Feb. 10, 2019. □



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